



Daily Report—

Latin America

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Cuba

Vice Minister on Diplomatic Talks With U.S.

PA1408144291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2135 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Report by Jose Buendia]

[Text] Havana, 13 Aug (NOTIMEX)—A high-ranking Cuban official has said that Cuba and the United States maintain "diplomatic contact" on the migratory conflict but, he noted, "no negotiations are under way" to try to "normalize" the situation.

Cuban Foreign Relations Vice Minister Ramon Sanchez-Parodi told NOTIMEX that "the United States has neither the will nor the disposition to negotiate," because "it is using the migration problem as a mechanism to attack Cuba."

The official appeared pessimistic about the possibility of resolving the migration problem because relations between the two countries are going through "pretty bad" times, but "this does not mean we cannot talk," he noted.

Sanchez-Parodi said that "neither of the two countries wants the migration problem to get out of control." According to local observers, as a result of the current situation, the United States could suspend issuing visas and Cuba could open its "borders" for travel abroad.

Washington has "temporarily" stopped issuing visas to Cubans. The Cuban Government has lowered the age for travel abroad to 20. This means that now more people are free to leave the country.

According to Sanchez-Parodi, the governments of the two nations, within the framework of "diplomatic contacts," have kept each other informed about the adoption of these measures. These talks have not turned into "any practical or specific negotiation," Sanchez-Parodi declared.

As the Cuban diplomat sees it, "this does not look like a good time for negotiations." He noted, however, that "this does not mean that there cannot be any in the future."

Sanchez-Parodi said at the Cuban Foreign Ministry that Cuba is capable of "expediting" travel for 100 percent of the population because, he explained, Cuban institutions now have capability to control the flow.

A relaxed Cuban migration policy has now opened the possibility for almost the entire population to travel abroad. Meanwhile, "the United States now does not have the capability of using migration mechanisms like it did before," when, he said, "it encouraged migration to hurt Cuba." Proof of this, he said, is that the State Department has suspended issuing visas to Cubans because it takes three to four months to process each tourist visa.

The U.S. Interests Section in Havana has attributed the suspension to a "lack of personnel" to process the more than 36,000 visa applications it has received during the first six months of 1991. The section now has a 28,000 application backlog.

The Cuban diplomat said that "he does not know what is going to happen as a result of the visa suspension." He believes that the decision will affect "especially, the emotional aspect" of people who want to travel to see their relatives in the United States.

Portion of Delegates Elected by Direct Vote

FL1408223491 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 1948 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Thirty percent of the delegates to the Fourth Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba will be chosen through direct vote. This process will begin on 19 August and run through 10 September. During this time, the party nucleus at the most important work centers and military units of the country will assemble to select its respective delegates. The delegates will then be approved in meetings attended by all workers.

Since July, the remaining party organizations have been choosing nominees for delegate consideration to the congress and Central Committee members. These selections were submitted to the people to be approved.

It was also announced that the Central Army will elect six full delegates to the fourth party congress. This honor will be given to members who have suitable merits and are capable of appropriately representing their units.

Politburo Members Inaugurate Facilities

FL1408121091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network
in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Politburo members Esteban Lazo and Armando Hart Davalos have attended the inauguration of the Antonio Maceo Plaza of the Revolution and a hospital in Santiago de Cuba. Other important facilities were also inaugurated across the province to include the Sultan Motel, several food industry facilities in Palma Soriano Municipality, and two multistory buildings also in Santiago de Cuba.

Castro Bestows Order of Solidarity on Petrov

FL1408235591 Havana Radio Reloj Network
in Spanish 2054 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has bestowed the Order of Solidarity on Yuriy Petrov, Soviet ambassador to Cuba. The distinction was conferred on him by the Council of State in recognition of his valuable efforts made in solidarity with the Cuban people. Ambassador Petrov returns to his country after having concluded his diplomatic mission in Cuba.

Army General Raul Castro, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, was present at the ceremony which took place at the Palace of the Revolution. Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Abelardo Colome, members of the Politburo; Eulices Rosales and Carlos Lage, alternate members of the Politburo; Carlos Aldana, secretary of the Central Committee; and Isidoro Malmierca, foreign minister, were also present at the ceremony, among other state and party officials.

Colombia, USSR, PRC Buy Meningitis Vaccines*FL1408181091 Havana Cuba Vision Network
in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Aug 91*

[Text] The Cuban vaccine against meningitis B, the only one of its kind in the world and also effective against meningitis C, is finding markets in Latin America after its results in campaigns in Cuba and Brazil. Brazil has just bought 15 million doses, and Colombia has signed a bilateral agreement to begin immunization of children there. The USSR and China are currently receiving their first shipments, and Cuban health authorities are negotiating with Venezuela and Ecuador. Meningitis is a serious health problem in more than 40 countries, and is epidemic in most of them. In Cuba it was one of the most lethal illnesses, with an overall mortality rate of 1.5 per 100,000 inhabitants.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs**Caribbean Forum Meeting Narrows Funding Gap***FL1408134191 Bridgetown CANA in English
1211 GMT 14 Aug 91*

[Reported by Colin King]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Aug 14, CANA—The Caribbean Forum, winding up a meeting here Tuesday, succeeded in shaving the value of project proposals nearer to the ECU 90 million (one European Currency Unit = 1.14 U.S. dollars) European Community indicated regional funding under the Fourth Lome Trade and Aid Pact.

"So far the gap between project requests and funds available has been considerably narrowed. It's above the 90 million but I don't think there is much point in trying to cut down at this stage," Grenada's Finance and Trade Minister George Brizan told CANA without specifying the remaining excess. Brizan, a Caribbean representative in the commodities group of the ACP [African, Caribbean, and Pacific] forum, said the more important requirement now emerging from the programming meeting is "to move to developing the projects fully."

Ministers and other officials of the 15 Caribbean ACP states began the two-day meeting Monday seeking to fashion nearly ECU 400 million worth of proposals by forum members into an ECU 90 million programme of projects for submission for European Economic Community funding. According to Brizan, the discussions, which have included bilaterals between heads of delegations, were marked by "a spirit of compromise and cooperation."

The large number of proposals submitted for inclusion in the five-year funding programme under the Fourth Lome Convention prompted fears that the programming meeting would be marked by insularity with countries pushing projects promising most individual gain. Inclusion of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, with a combined population of some 13.5 million, under Lome IV without a matching increase in regional funding also raised concern about the programming process.

"I think they're doing quite well (in the forum). The draft procedural documents which we went through (Tuesday) morning were in fact submitted by Haiti," a Caricom [Caribbean Community] participant told CANA.

"They have taken the exercise very seriously. The fact that they have gone on to submit a draft as to how the forum should operate.... And that the draft has been discussed, with some amendments, illustrates the so-called common front that is being developed among Caribbean ACP states," he added.

The participation shows the possibilities of "using the experiences of member states collectively and trying to reach commonality in terms of our way forward, speaking with one voice and understanding each other," he said.

Caricom Secretary General Roderick Rainford urged the meeting Monday to agree on "modalities" for future operation of the forum. Procedures of the forum have come under review in the light of the two new members, expanding membership from the previous complement of 13 Caricom states and Suriname.

"I think with the inclusion of Haiti and the Dominican Republic there is need now for us to have a distinct understanding that the Caribbean Forum is not Caricom," Brizan told CANA.

He observed that consolidation of proposals for Lome IV into priority areas of trade and tourism; agriculture and fisheries; transport and communications; human resource development; and the environment was a Caricom-European Community agreement.

"Caricom itself was intricately involved in the negotiations of Lome IV.... In future it would be Caribbean ACP states or Caribbean Forum," he noted.

Cayman Islands**Government Appoints Liquidators in BCCI Case***FL1408212491 Bridgetown CANA in English
2031 GMT 14 Aug 91*

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Aug 14, CANA—Government-appointed liquidators for the Cayman Islands operations of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) will be in court September 3 seeking approval of a final liquidation order for the beleaguered bank.

Despite the announced intention to "wind up" BCCI and its Cayman subsidiaries, provisional liquidator Ian Wight of the accounting firm of Deloitte, Ross and Tohmatsu (DRT) did not rule out the possibility that a reorganisation plan to keep the bank from closing permanently might be presented by BCCI stockholders.

"We are still negotiating with the primary shareholders," Wight said, but he declined to elaborate. "It would be inappropriate for me to comment at this time," he said. The main BCCI shareholder is the ruler of Abu Dhabi, part of the United Arab Emirates.

BCCI was virtually shutdown worldwide on July 5, 1991, following a Bank of England audit alleging "massive fraud" on a global scale. BCCI operations in the Cayman Islands included the headquarters for the more than 35 branches of BCCI Overseas Ltd., International Credit and Investment Company (ICIC), and Credit Finance Corporation (CFC). All were taken over by Wight and other DRT liquidators on July 5. Wight said the September 3 hearing would "be available for creditors and shareholders to make representations and appear at the hearing to address the issues."

Wight declined to say if a plan for BCCI to operate in Cayman, similar to the one recently approved for the bank in England, would be presented in the Cayman Islands. The high court in England recently granted BCCI a four-month extension from liquidation proceedings. During that time, a reorganization plan and depositor protection scheme are being implemented. Despite the presence of more than 540 banks in the Cayman Islands, and an estimated U.S. 370 billion dollars on deposit from foreign sources, there is no depositor protection insurance for banks in the British dependent territory.

In the absence of any court-approved reorganization plan to keep the bank open and/or pay off depositors, Wight expects the court to grant him final approval to liquidate the bank. But liquidation could take some time, he said. "I don't have a time frame. We just don't know how long it will be." He said he would have to first find all assets of the bank, and sell off appropriate ones, before he could begin to consider paying depositors and creditors.

Wight and a team of DRT employees from Canada and Britain are sifting through mounds of documents held by BCCI overseas, here from their branches around the world. The documents were discovered in an unmarked warehouse the bank had in an industrial park area near the airport.

Cayman Islands Banking Inspector John Atkinson admitted previously that his department is cooperating with the Bank of England investigation into alleged fraud at the bank, along with an accompanying Scotland Yard serious fraud investigation. Atkinson, who is now in Great Britain conferring with Bank of England officials, said last week his office has found no evidence of fraud at BCCI in the Cayman Islands "at this point in time."

Grenada

Bishop Assassins Receive Commuted Sentences

FL1508020391 Bridgetown CANA in English
0028 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Aug 14, CANA—Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite Wednesday night announced that the death sentences on 14 persons convicted of the 1983 murder of former Prime Minister Maurice Bishop will be commuted to life imprisonment.

Haiti

Police Use Tear Gas To End Demonstration 13 Aug

FL1408193291 Port-au-Prince Radio Galaxie
in French 1702 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Three hours after yesterday's Parliament session was adjourned, the deputies were still unable to leave the Legislative Palace to go home. When the vice president of the Chamber, Deputy Frantz Monde, finally attempted to leave, the crowd tried to attack him, which was prevented when the police interceded with teargas.

Senator Turneb Delpé was subjected to violent verbal abuse. All insults were made in the presence of police. At around 2300 GMT, the prime minister and the minister of public works, Mr. Verela, were still inside the Legislative Palace. More details and the deputies' reactions will be presented in further broadcasts.

'Tense, Quiet Climate' Prevails

PA1408232391 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2002 GMT
14 Aug 91

[Text] Port-Au-Prince, 14 August (DPA)—A tense, quiet climate prevailed today in Haiti's capital city, Port-Au-Prince, after thousands of President Jean Bertrand Aristide's followers staged violent demonstrations against opposers of Prime Minister Rene Preval on 13 August.

The government had scheduled many festivities today to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Negro slaves uprising against the French colonial rule in Haiti.

The protests carried out by more than 2,000 of Aristide's followers prompted the adjournment of a parliamentary session in which, it was expected, there would be strong criticism of Preval's government work and even a possible vote of censure against him to get the prime minister to resign.

Some senators had received death threats while several pro-government radio stations had called the people to demonstrate in front of the Legislative Palace.

Previously, pro-government Haitians had set fire to the offices of the Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers and looted the locale of the Confederation of Democratic Unity. In the past weeks, both organizations had harshly criticized Preval's policies.

President Aristide has given the prime minister his full support and has warned that it would be "very harmful" to the government's negotiations with international organizations to obtain the economic aid urgently needed for the country's reconstruction, if the Congress removed Preval from his post.

Since the parliamentary session was adjourned on 13 August, Preval must reportedly appear before parliament to answer the legislators' questions in eight days.

There hardly seems to be any concrete criticism of the work carried out by the prime minister besides complaints about the catastrophic economic situation of the island.

Several Haitian observers have estimated that the parliament's attitude toward Preval is based on the fact that the members of the National Front for Democracy and Change (FNCD)—the dominant force in Parliament—are angry because Aristide, who was sworn in on February, has not given them the government posts they have demanded.

Until recently, Aristide, who does not have a political party of his own, had the FNCD's support for his government's policies.

Jamaica

Appointment of Liquidator Sought in BCCI Payout

FL1408202891 Bridgetown CANA in English
1946 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 14, CANA—Officials of the Bank of Jamaica plan an August 22 meeting with depositors and creditors of the local branch of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) to discuss a proposal to appoint a liquidator, acting Prime Minister P.J. Patterson said.

Patterson, speaking in Parliament Tuesday, said the government planned to apply to the Supreme Court to appoint a liquidator for the local operations of BCCI which were closed following similar action by authorities in other countries amid allegations of fraud.

"It is hoped that if there is agreement on all sides, and the liquidator is appointed, Jamaican creditors and depositors will benefit to the maximum extent from the assets in Jamaica, and that there would be much speedier pay-outs than if we were to wait on a global situation," Patterson said.

The government's move to appoint a liquidator for the local BCCI branch followed consultations with the Central Bank governor in his capacity as inspector of banks, and the solicitor general. The application will be made under the Companies Act.

Exporters Complain About Caricom Trade Experiment

FL1308231391 Bridgetown CANA in English
2213 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 13, CANA—Exporters in Jamaica, citing payment bottlenecks for exports to other Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries, say a new payments mechanism, using regional currencies, is not workable in its present form.

"Until there is sufficient money down in the Caribbean to pay for the exports (of) Jamaica, we're still going to have a problem, and it is unfortunate that the Jamaican exporter is really being asked to be the sacrificial lamb in the process of facilitating the trade," Carl James of the Jamaica Exporters Association [JEA] told CANA.

After complaints by some Caricom suppliers, Jamaica in June scrapped requirements for trade payments in U.S. dollars, in favour of payments as far as possible in regional currencies, with any imbalances settled in hard currency.

However, James said that trade imbalances have made payment by Barbados, Trinidad, and the Eastern Caribbean countries problematic, with Trinidad's payments now only flowing in, and Barbados promising to facilitate payments from this week.

"It is the exporter who is inconvenienced, although if we don't find an answer to the present impasse, then we will have no exports at all, and therefore nobody will be looking forward to anything coming in," he said. "We have a vested interest in finding a workable solution. This one we have here is not likely to be workable in its current form," James added. The JEA will monitor the situation for the next month while commercial banks explore alternative payments arrangements, he reported.

Suggested alternatives include the use of a single bank for all the transactions in a given territory, allowing the bank to determine at a given time how the inflow of funds and demands for outflows. According to James, Barbados appeared reluctant to cover imbalances in hard currency: "We have to buy raw materials outside the region to satisfy the requirements of Barbados and the rest of the region, so we have to repay that money in hard currency," he said.

The Jamaica Central Bank has, however, told the JEA that Barbados has been preparing to approve conversion of some payments into hard currency, allowing an ease in the bottleneck in the case of that country by Wednesday.

"The Eastern Caribbean countries are adamant that they are paying in Eastern Caribbean dollars because their dollar is stable and it is convertible," James observed. He said commercial banks here are examining how they can deal with payments that are made in EC currency. The banks would need, through their corresponding banks in the other territories, to determine the level of exposure in EC dollars, "and therefore, how convertible a payment in EC dollars is," he added.

Honduran Fishermen Fined; Equipment Confiscated

FL1508003291 Bridgetown CANA in English
2200 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Aug 14, CANA—A court on Wednesday imposed fines totalling J29,000 dollars on 101 Honduran fishermen after they pleaded guilty to illegally fishing in Jamaican waters. In addition, Magistrate Z. McCalla ordered confiscation of the fishermen's catch of 19,000 pounds of conch, 330 pounds of lobster, as well as their fishing gear and equipment. The equipment, estimated to cost thousands of dollars, includes 271 diving tanks, 51 back-ports, 46 regulators, diving masks, and 51 pairs of fins.

The 112 Hondurans, travelling in two boats, were spotted on August 9 by a member of the Jamaica Defence Force [JDF] Coast Guard along the Pedro Banks, a chain of cays south of Jamaica. On observing the activities of the men, JDF officers intercepted the boats and searched them. The vessels, with their crew and catch, were taken to marine headquarters. Speaking through interpreter police inspector Albert Edwards, the

Hondurans, many of them barefooted and shabbily dressed, all pleaded guilty to fishing without licences. They were each fined J250 dollars (one J dollar = 10 cents U.S.) or 14 days imprisonment.

Captains Mario Batiste, 21; and Eduardo Calderon, 27; and chief mates Francisco Lobo and Wise Wood were each fined 1,000 dollars or 30 days in prison for operating boats without licences. Representatives of the vessels' owners said they were aiming to secure the men's release by Wednesday evening so that they could start their 450-mile journey back home.

St. Lucia

Political Parties Prepare for Elections

FL1308174291 Bridgetown CANA in English
1628 GMT 13 Aug 91

[By Guy Ellis]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Aug 13, CANA—Painted slogans and printed posters have started appearing on walls in this capital city as political parties step up their campaign for general elections which must be held within the next 11 months. So far, Prime Minister John Compton has given no indication when his ruling United Workers Party (UWP) will seek to renew its mandate with the electorate.

General election dates traditionally have been a closely-guarded secret of the St. Lucian leader who has dominated the seat of political power since his party was launched in 1964. Whenever it is called, however, the election promises to be another straight fight between the UWP and the St. Lucia Labour Party (SLP), although the position of the dormant Progressive Labour Party (PLP), which was decimated by a poor showing and a string of defections since the 1982 poll, remains in doubt.

In the last election in 1987, Compton's UWP was forced to settle for a narrow one-seat victory over the SLP, 9-8 in the 17-member House of Assembly. When he expressed dissatisfaction with the result and ordered a new election four weeks later in an attempt for an increased majority, the results turned out the same. But Compton breathed a little easier following the controversial floor-crossing of one of the victorious SLP candidates who expressed disenchantment with his party.

The UWP has been in power here for all but three of the 27 years of its existence. During that time, it has succeeded in taking St. Lucia into independence from Britain and diversified the country's economic base from dependence on a single crop—bananas—to a three-pronged structure of agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing. The government has also spent millions of dollars beefing up the country's infrastructure to lay the basis for future development.

Although jobs have been created especially in the latter two sectors, unemployment remains, by the government's own admission, at a critical level and social

problems have been cropping up, including crime, that the administration has found difficult to control.

Despite problems in the regional and international community, including nonpayment by some Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries for St. Lucia's exports, recession in the major industrialised countries, and the effects of the recent Gulf War on fuel prices and travel, St. Lucia recorded a 4 per cent growth rate last year as all three major economic sectors performed well in the circumstances, with EC 187 million dollars (one EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) coming from the vital banana industry and EC 417 million from tourism.

It is this record of achievement that Compton is expected to sell to the electorate in the current campaign for an unprecedented sixth five-year term in office, an election that could well be the last for the 65-year old British trained lawyer and planter, and two other members of the UWP "old guard," Tourism and Industry Minister George Mallet, and former cabinet colleague and now backbencher Allan Bousquet, who have been with the party since 1964, but in Parliament for 37, 33, and 31 years respectively.

UWP Chairman Henry Giraudy has made it clear that one agenda item for the party this election will be trying to identify successors for the ageing trio. He said recently: "... We will have that in mind when we are selecting our slate (of candidates). We are going to get a team that can carry on."

But the consensus within the SLP is that the UWP has been in power for too long and during the campaigning so far, labour candidates including the new faces have been harping the traditional cry that it's time for a change. Attorney Wilkie Larcher who opposes Community Development Minister Stephenson King in the populous North East Castries Constituency, told his launching ceremony in May, "I have committed myself today to this platform because I want change. I am ready for that change."

And late last month, another SLP newcomer Marius Wilson who will attempt to unseat the incumbent Education Minister Louis George in the rural constituency of Micoud North, said he was feeling "the need for a change in government." It was the same clarion call for change that unseated the UWP in 1979 after 15 years in power. On that occasion, the SLP romped home with 12 of the 17 seats, but its victory soon turned sour when a prolonged and bitterly contested struggle over the government's leadership ended with its falling from grace under public pressure halfway through its term.

During its campaign the SLP is expected to point to some of the failures of the government during its long years in office while underlining the need for change. It is a strategy that may prove appealing to the country's large band of young voters many of them unemployed, although the older heads would remember the debacle of 1979.

PLP leader George Odum sees another consideration. He says: "If there is no serious anomaly or any new

phenomenon on the electoral scene, the prevailing mood in the country will be that the devil we know is better than the devil we don't know."

"The recession which has engulfed Europe and America and is spreading its tentacles into the Caribbean is breeding a kind of conservatism which says this is no time for experimenting with change," he adds.

SLP leader, businessman Julian Hunte, insists that the (SLP) has learnt from the problems of the past and is ready to rule again. He told a meeting of the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce a year ago, "I give you, and indeed the nation as a whole, the assurance that the mistakes of the past will not re-occur. We might not have been ready in 1979, but we are ready for 1992."

Still, the question of the leadership stability remains a point at issue whenever the prospects of an SLP government is debated. There are those who say that, despite Hunte's assurances to the contrary, relations between himself and his deputy Peter Josie have remained strained ever since Hunte's easy sliding into the leadership of the party in 1984, after a convention had agreed to an amendment in the Constitution.

In the years since then, Hunte has proven his mettle in his re-organisation of the party and strengthening of its campaign strategy. Indeed the electorate's perception of the SLP's readiness to rule again can be measured in its 1987 showing when it captured 40 percent of the voters in the second round of balloting, compared with a mere 16 percent in the UWP 14-3 landslide of 1982.

Despite its inactivity, the PLP, an SLP splinter led by former Deputy Prime minister George Odum, still considers itself a factor in the coming elections. The CRUSADER newspaper, weekly organ of the PLP, said last weekend that the battle lines for the election "are not clearly drawn," since no one was clear whether it will be a two or three party fight.

A PLP presence in a few constituencies as was the case in 1982 could present the SLP with something of a humbug. For instance, Odum's younger brother, Jon, is understood to be planning to return to the Castries South Constituency where he ran a good second to the UWP candidate five years ago.

Elections here usually turn up some intriguing matchups and the impending one will be no exception. Eyes will be focussed on the fight between Hunte and former SLP minister and deputy PLP leader Michael Pilgrim, who is

making the circle and running on a UWP ticket this time in the northern constituency town of Gros Islet.

Pilgrim, interim prime minister in the period between the SLP's fall in early 1981 and the elections which followed, seems almost certain to get the nod to run for the UWP, despite the current series of consultations throughout the constituency to choose a candidate.

Once a charismatic figure within the SLP, Pilgrim ran unsuccessfully for the party in the twin elections of 1987, in his return to the party after severing links with Odum's PLP which he had helped form. But he was soon in trouble with the SLP hierarchy which rescinded his appointment to the Senate for reasons that were never made public. Pilgrim is expected to join Foreign Minister Neville Cenac as the second labourite to sever links with the SLP in recent years.

The SLP is not daunted. All its promotional stunts to date tell of the party being "on the road to victory," but it is a tough battle that is shaping up between the arch rivals and remembering the results of the last outing, few independent observers are willing to forecast the outcome.

Trinidad and Tobago

Coup Leader Seeks Review of Press Decision

FL1308234691 Bridgetown CANA in English
2140 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Aug 13, CANA—Abdullah Omowale, one of 19 Jamaat al Muslimeen leaders charged in connection with last July's coup attempt, said Tuesday that he was seeking a judicial review of Trinidad and Tobago Chief Magistrate Melville Baird's decision not to censor the press. Omowale, formerly Andy Thomas, told magistrate Baird at the Chaguaramas magistrate's court in West Trinidad, that he did not agree with the ruling made two weeks ago.

The former death-row prisoner who was pardoned by the state in 1987 said he believed that articles in the two daily newspapers could influence witnesses in the inquiry into the coup attempt. Baird had ruled that the accused could raise the issue of press censoring if the case was sent to the assizes. Omowale and 113 members of the Jamaat al Muslimeen are facing treason and murder charges arising out of the attempted coup. The inquiry is proceeding against the top 19 members of the Muslim sect. The inquest involving the remaining 95 has been adjourned.

The 26th witness for the state, Police Constable Seechan Bharat, will continue giving evidence when the inquiry resumes next week.

'Exclusive' Interview With President Salinas
PY1508005491 Montevideo EL PAIS in Spanish
10 Aug 91 pp 33, 34

["Exclusive" interview with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari by EL PAIS Mexican correspondent Julie Rodriguez Larreta; place and date not given]

[Text] [Rodriguez] Mr. President, you have promoted a decisive policy designed to reform the state, and I remember that President Lacalle greatly appreciated what you explained in this regard when you visited Montevideo. On that occasion you said: "The state's properties are designed to solve the problems of the society..."

[Salinas] For many years in Mexico, and possibly in other countries, it was believed that the more properties the state owned, the more capacity it had to promote justice. This could have been a fundamental position in the past, but in the 1980's the crisis showed us that the more properties the state owned the more needs the people had.

During the tours I made of different parts of the country every Thursday and Friday, the people asked me to provide them with services, drinking water, health clinics, schools with desks and blackboards, and paved streets. They never asked me about the type of plane that was to be used to modernize air service in the country, in which only 6 percent of the people use such transportation.

This shows that the state lost its capacity to meet social demands. This fact led me to the conviction to earmark resources to the state and political time to meet its essential commitments, instead of concentrating on activities designed to subsidize or manage enterprises that could be important and profitable but that prevented the state from fully observing justice.

Consequently, aviation, mining, and telephone enterprises have been sold. We are selling the banks, and we are about to privatize iron and steel companies so that we can gather those resources. We are promoting the participation of the community itself so that it can organize and solve its own problems in order that it can estimate and acknowledge its own dignity and can realize that it is able to resolve its problems. The state is implementing all these projects, not through speeches, but with facts.

[Rodriguez] Your administration has decisively faced serious problems such as the aforementioned reform, debt renegotiation, inflation, and the fiscal deficit, but it seems that it has not done much with respect to the situation in the agricultural sector, in which reform had very negative results.

[Salinas] We have a serious problem in the rural sector. The agrarian reform was initially positive, especially in

the area of great investments, in the hydraulic infrastructure, credits support, and many subsidies, but we currently are facing the great problem of small property.

More than half the country's farmers have less than three hectares per family and depend on rain to maintain production. There is no possibility for them to obtain a just income. A great injustice and inefficiency prevail in the rural sector, and we have decided to fight them. However, one should be very careful in dealing with rural matters because they unleash major interests that have to be addressed in a comprehensive way and with a sense of justice. But I am determined to find a solution.

[Rodriguez] Is communal land (ejido) established in the Constitution? How do you plan to transform it?

[Salinas] It is established in Article 27, and I already have said that the way the communal land system is regulated is not feasible. We need to modify the interior of the communal land itself, reaffirming a private land system that is implemented in the rural sector. We have to resort to efficient channels so that these systems can meet the needs of a country of 82 million people like Mexico, where the population increases by almost 2 million people every year.

[Rodriguez] What has to be done in the face of the fearful demographic explosion?

[Salinas] This is a formidable challenge. We have made great progress but this type of growth neutralizes many of our efforts. Therefore, we have implemented a deliberate policy aimed at reducing the demographic explosion. We have been able to reduce the growth rate from 4 percent to 2 percent. We want to reduce this rate to 1 percent by the end of this decade.

[Rodriguez] Do you have problems with the Catholic Church over this policy?

[Salinas] The church is responsible for the spiritual aspect and the state has its constitutional responsibility to the citizens. Therefore, we are decisively promoting this policy.

[Rodriguez] Is there an educational campaign in this regard?

[Salinas] We have promoted an intensive campaign to convince and assist people on the need to prevent the demographic explosion. Furthermore, there are actions that apparently have no relation but a great impact. For example, general education.

We have found that women who finish the sixth year of primary school have half the children of those who do not finish basic education. Therefore, our great priority is to decisively promote not only the access but the possibility of finishing primary school.

[Rodriguez] What is the current rate of the medium-level population. Has it increased recently?

[Salinas] The crisis they have endured for years has affected their lives and their purchasing power, but they again have favorable prospects in view of the economic recovery, which, in turn, helps to promote positive family planning.

I can say that the population has begun to improve its economic position because the economy has grown in the past three years at a rate that doubles the demographic explosion and also because inflation is decreasing.

We want to reduce inflation to 15 percent. Inflation reached 200 percent a few years ago.

[Rodriguez] Mexico soon will hold elections to renew the Chamber of Deputies and half the Senate. Do you think the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] will win the election? Will people continue to support the hegemonic party system?

[Salinas] We must consider several aspects. First, many democratic countries have a strong party system. In Italy, for instance, a single party has been in power for over 45 years, in Japan one party has been in government for 40 years, and in Sweden the same party has ruled the country for 65 years.

These countries have peculiar democracies. What matters is that we are committed to see that voting results reflect the people's will.

We have to consider that the August election will develop in a completely different political climate compared to previous elections. Today we have economic growth, increasing employment, improving real salary levels, and a dropping inflation rate. There is a deliberate social program that has raised the standard of living of a large part of the population, and we have promoted a climate of dialogue and consensus.

Opposition parties, meanwhile, are seriously divided and lack consistent policies. These elements will contribute to a very different electoral result in this election. We also must consider that we worked out a different legal framework for this federal election.

[Rodriguez] Different in what sense?

[Salinas] The people's new well-being will be reflected in the result, particularly because of the possibility of a better future for the country.

[Rodriguez] The PRI will not split, but will it change? Will it continue as it is today?

[Salinas] I think conditions are right for a very favorable electoral result. The PRI is undergoing an important internal reform process that includes changes in the election of candidates, the quality of campaigns, etc.

This election will be carried out within a new legal framework. We have a new code that, for the first time in Mexican history, was approved by most political parties.

Five out of six national political parties approved it. We made a new electoral registration list. We used the most modern technology to develop it. We used electoral officials chosen at random, in a draw, who were then professionally trained. We created an independent Electoral Tribunal. We are constructing the building of our democracy with solid bricks.

[Rodriguez] What happened when Mario Vargas Llosa said Mexico was the most perfect Latin American dictatorship?

[Salinas] I would say that Vargas Llosa writes very good novels.

[Rodriguez] Is that all? But let us change subjects and talk about the Free Trade Treaty. How is your government taking the opposition to the treaty by certain sectors that fear local firms will not be able to compete with foreign firms and will go bankrupt, a problem that also affects our countries?

[Salinas] We opened up the market many years ago. We have drastically cut duties and eliminated import licenses. The problem is that we opened our market unilaterally but could not gain access to other markets.

Goods from any country can enter Mexico. This helped us lower our inflation rate. It also forced local industries to become more efficient, reorganize, and change technologies.

We seek reciprocity with the Trilateral Free Trade Treaty with the United States and Canada; we seek integration with the Free Trade Treaty with Chile. This is also the case with Venezuela and Colombia, and in fact with the rest of Latin America.

[Rodriguez] But do you not fear the ghost of unemployment as a result of the closing of many industries, particularly small and medium-sized industries, which are unable to compete?

[Salinas] No. We started our opening a long time ago and if these firms did not break before they will not do it in the future either. It is obvious that some sectors will face more competition than others, but the results will benefit consumers.

[Rodriguez] You have just mentioned Chile and I ask: Would you have invited the president of that country if he were Augusto Pinochet and not Patricio Aylwin? Would you have treated him as you treated Comandante Castro?

[Salinas] I am very happy that President Aylwin represented Chile, particularly because we resumed diplomatic relations only a few months ago. I appreciate and respect President Aylwin a lot.

[Rodriguez] But why does Mexico give such deference to dictator Castro?

[Salinas] We invited all heads of state in the region and all of them attended. That was a very unusual event in Latin America.

[Rodriguez] But you did not answer my question.

[Salinas] What I said was enough. (Salinas smiles)

[Rodriguez] Before we conclude let us talk about Salinas, the man. It is said that you are a man who was prepared from childhood to become president. Some people say that you are a technocrat more than a politician. What is your own opinion on these matters?

[Salinas] I am convinced that politicians today require a solid technical education. Political activity requires a willingness for agreement and dialogue and a capacity to avoid conflicts, harmonize group activities within society, and face the unexpected. A good technical education is also necessary. I have always sought to prepare myself seriously in the professional field and to participate in political activities. That experience was useful in facing the current challenges and understanding the world in which we live.

[Rodriguez] Time passed quickly when talking with the pleasant and talented Mexican president. However, he still had enough time to tell me that he had three children, that the girl was 17, that he married at 24, and that his two boys were 15 and 12. Salinas said he enjoyed spending time with the family and tried to be with them as much as possible, especially on weekends. Salinas said he enjoyed playing tennis when he is not jogging. He also

said he likes music, movies, and theater. He said he admires Churchill, De Gaulle, and Roosevelt for their capacity to keep their countries united in times of extreme challenge. Among national leaders, he said he preferred Benito Juarez "because he used intelligence to solve internal conflicts, face a civil war, and maintain our sovereignty in view of foreign intervention, two great achievements in the country's history."

Bomb Destroys City Bank, Damages Other Banks

PA1408144191 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1646 GMT
12 Aug 91

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Aug (EFE)—The Mexican Red Cross today disclosed that a branch of "City Bank" was destroyed and three neighboring banking facilities were damaged in an apparent bombing carried out in north-west Mexico City last night.

Red Cross spokesman Juan Aco told EFE that the incident appears to be a bombing because "metal fragments from a bomb were found."

Aco explained that "the bomb exploded inside the 'City Bank' building" located amid other buildings on the same block. The other banks experienced serious damage.

The banks affected were "City Bank," Bancomer, Banpais, and Banca Serfin. There is no information about possible victims.

The attack took place at 2130 (0330 GMT) on 12 August, six days prior to federal and state elections, scheduled for 18 August.

Guatemala

Authorities Admit Resurgence of 'Death Squads'

PA1408232891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
1040 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Report by Maricel Dieguez]

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The murders of 15 people so far this month, their bodies showing signs of torture, have alerted the authorities and human rights defenders to the resurgence of the feared "death squads."

Nineth Montenegro, leader of the Mutual Support Group (GAM), said: "These events demonstrate that the death squads continue to operate in the country with full impunity."

Montenegro, whose independent organization has become the most important defender of human rights in Guatemala, also expressed concern over the increase in violence.

Human rights ombudsman Ramiro Deleon condemned what he described as an "escalation of violence," and accused the security forces of being unable to protect the people.

The increased violence coincided with the visit to Guatemala by a group of EC observers who are investigating the status of human rights in the country at the request of the Foreign Ministry.

"We realized that the human rights situation was worsening," Bilbert Bossuyt [name as received], the Belgian who heads the group, said this weekend. "We doubt that there is a real possibility of achieving peace in Guatemala," he said, adding that it is "unlikely" that the government can control the situation.

Government Minister Fernando Hurtado Prem himself said that the characteristics of the murders suggest they might be the work of the death squads, rightist terrorist groups that operated in the country some years ago.

The bodies of at least 15 victims have been found so far this month in different places, with visible signs of torture. In addition, they also showed that the victims had been killed by a shot to the head.

The victims include Jose Miguel Merida Escobar, chief of homicide of the police, and two policemen whose bodies were found a few meters from the police precinct in the center of the Guatemalan capital. Merida Escobar was heading the investigation into the murder of anthropologist Myrna Mack, whose body was found in September 1990, with at least 15 stab wounds.

President Jorge Serrano revealed that Merida Escobar had made significant progress in solving the anthropologist's murder.

The list of victims began early in the month with the discovery of five bodies in the southern part of the city, with signs of torture and of a final shot to the head.

Three bodies of young men were found in the town of Santa Barbara, Suchitepequez Department, 125 km south of Guatemala City. The bodies also had head wounds and their hands were tied behind their backs.

Two unidentified bodies were found in a downtown hotel in the capital and three others were found in the eastern part of the capital.

The body of a woman showing similar signs of torture was found by firemen at a spot known as El Campanero, outside the city.

Hurtado Prem said that the violence unleashed in Guatemala is designed to destabilize and discredit the security forces. The minister added that the intention is "basically political" and is worsening on the eve of an OAS Human Rights Commission meeting on the conflicts in the area.

"Several groups are interested in making the country look bad in the area of human rights violations," the minister said.

URNG Issues Communique on Utility Towers

PA1408160091 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE
in Spanish 10 Aug 91 p 3

[Text] "The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) urban commandos, as part of the general command's established war plans, on 4 August downed two utility towers belonging to the nation's interconnecting power system," the URNG said last night in a press communique delivered to our paper.

The URNG also stated in the document: "After seven months, no difference can be found between this regime and the previous one. While the rich continue to starve the poor, the military murder those who attempt to protest."

"The media publishes each day only part of the murders of peasants and people's leaders, the harassment of the Indian communities, and the kidnapping of persons who are concerned with the people's misery," the communique adds.

"Under these conditions, we will continue fostering the people's war, because we have not signed any truce and because the people's suffering and the repression is getting worse each day. The principle parties responsible for this situation are the government, the rich, and the Armed Forces," the communique concludes.

Honduras

General Opposes Cut in Military Spending

PA1508004391 Paris AFP in Spanish 2056 GMT
14 Aug 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Aug (AFP)—Honduran Armed Forces Commander General Luis Alonso Discua has stated his opposition to a reduction of military expenditures in Central America and has rejected pressure in this direction from the Agency for International Development [AID].

On the evening of 13 August, while making a statement to journalists, the general referred to an AID document, "The Economic Assistance Strategy for Central America: 1991 to 2000." This document lists "the new U.S. policy on demilitarization in the area."

"Logically," the general said, "all the armed institutions of these countries must undergo some changes, but it is us who must take this initiative, which should not be the result of pressure or efforts to tie us down."

He said: "The countries of Central America and the rest of Latin America have the capability of initiating these actions, without pressure." "The Latin American countries think in a completely different way," said the general. He added: The Armed Forces "are a dynamic institution and we are going to be in tune with what is happening in the rest of the world."

The Honduran general said that the Army will obey congressional decisions on a bill aimed at the elimination of the post of commander of the Armed Forces so that the Armed Forces are placed directly under the command of the president through the Defense Ministry.

The bill introduced by the Social Democratic Innovation and Unity Party is aimed at establishing real civilian supremacy over the military, the proponents have said.

At recent regional forums, the Governments of Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua have proposed that Central American military expenditures be cut drastically. This proposition has been rejected by the Honduran and Guatemalan Armies.

Nicaragua

Russian Delegation, Krugger Discuss Relations

PA1408163391 Managua Sistema Nacional
De Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT
13 Aug 91

[Report by Vilma Estrada. Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] A delegation from the Russian Federated Republic met with Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Krugger to discuss bilateral economic relations to sign a draft agreement. This delegation will present to the

government and the private sector a number of economic proposals that will contribute to reactivating the country.

These talks are being held within the framework of cooperation with Nicaragua. The delegation formed by 18 private businessmen is headed by the deputy foreign economic relations minister of the Russian Federated Republic.

These businessmen are interested in developing the private sector in the fields of air transportation, pharmaceuticals, agricultural industry, and distribution and marketing of petroleum derivatives in Central America, among other things.

[Krugger] "We are looking for a way to establish a framework so that the businessmen of both countries can establish this kind of relationship. They chose the path of economic cooperation, we [words indistinct] and will mix the two things a little bit."

These talks will serve to define a draft agreement with Nicaragua.

[Krugger] "These could be important investments, or important associations and relations. What the governments will do in this case is ease the process, because neither country has a totally free economy. Therefore, it is still necessary for the governments to support them in their development process."

The important thing is that the private sector is the base of this cooperation.

[Russian Federated Republic Deputy Foreign Economic Relations Minister Beliaev Ni, in Russian with simultaneous translation into Spanish] "That is why our commercial offices are working together in a very coordinated manner, for example, in those countries where results have been obtained."

The delegation has met with representatives from Inde [Nicaraguan Institute of Development, Cosep [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

'Communique' Issued on 'Critical' Situation

PA1408160291 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
11 Aug 91 p 6

["Communique" issued by the Front for the People's Struggle, FLP, in Managua on 8 August]

[Text] We, the workers and citizens who represent the 16 organizations that comprise the Front for the People's Struggle (FLP), gathered in a special general assembly in Managua on 8 August to analyze the critical national situation and have reached the following conclusions and decisions, which we hereby report to our rank and file and the population in general:

1. Our heroic people, with the courage and wisdom that characterize them, knew when to grab the bull by the horns and transform the armed struggle imposed by the North Americans into a political-ideological struggle. We wanted to prevent them from waging war against us. We wanted to prevent our children from dying.

2. However, death continues to afflict our humble population. Our people are now dying of hunger. Our people are now dying of minor illnesses that cannot be cured because money for the health care of the people is being denied. Our people are now dying because most of them do not have jobs or salaries to be able to eat.

3. Amid this situation of poverty that has resulted from the injustice typical of an elitist government, there are persons who want to provoke the people so that war can return to Nicaragua. They want war because it would give the United States—which has been characterized by hypocrisy and falsehood throughout its history—the pretext to again intervene in Nicaragua to "pacify us."

4. The U.S. Government is promoting an atmosphere for war through its puppets, [National Assembly President Alfredo] Cesar, [Vice President Virgilio] Godoy, and [Managua Mayor Arnoldo] Aleman, so as to later appear as our saviors. It is possible to plan this strategy because they know that they have the backing of their unconditional mercenary Alfredo Cesar and his partners Godoy and Aleman. That is why it is essential that these "gentlemen" be separated from their positions. To find the way to accomplish this end is the great challenge of democracy today in Nicaragua.

5. The people in Nicaragua do not want more war, much less a new U.S. intervention. All the organizations that form the FLP support this popular sentiment. We want peace to be an requisite condition for the development of our beloved Nicaragua.

6. The FLP is struggling for peace and justice and it is unequivocally committed to adopting whatever measures are necessary to stop the warmongers who have become entrenched mainly within the UNO [National Opposition Union] bloc in the National Assembly.

7. In the event that the UNO bloc insists on its policy of confrontation and dares to continue to present unconstitutional bills that violate the people's rights, the FLP will immediately call on the population to increase the level of civil struggle to dimensions never before seen in Nicaragua so that the traitorous deputies led by mercenary Alfredo Cesar can be immediately removed from their posts.

8. The promises made by President Chamorro to the people will never materialize as long as these vengeful deputies continue to block government work, destabilize the country, and lead us toward war.

9. We call on all the organizations that comprise the FLP to declare a state of maximum alert and guarantee the participation of their members in a rally scheduled to

take place at 0900 on 20 August, when the National Assembly will resume its sessions.

Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, National coordinator of Nicaragua's Community Movement and coordinator of the Front for the People's Struggle
Ronald Membreno, Jose Benito Escobar Sandinist Workers Federation (CST)
Edgardo Garcia, Farm Workers Association (ATC)

Mario Quintana, National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers (ANDEN)

Felix Contreras, Heroes and Martyrs National Confederation of Professional Associations (CONAPRO)

Gladys Baez, Luisa Amanda Espinoza Association of Nicaraguan Women (AMNLAE)

Julio Arevalo, Association of National Autonomous University of Nicaragua Professors (ATD)

Salvador Perez, Movement of Historical Collaborators and Fighters

Edgar Paladino, Association of Dismissed Workers of the Government Ministry

Lucio Jimenez, General secretary of the CST and coordinator of the National Workers Front (FNT)

Jose Angel Bermudez, National Employees Union (UNE)

Gustavo Porras, Health Workers Federation (Fetsalud)

Carlos Salgado, Union of Nicaraguan Journalists (UPN)

Lily Soto V., FNT Executive Secretary

Carlos Fonseca Teran, 19 July Sandinist Youth Movement (JS19J)

Luis Flores, Union of University Workers (Situm)

Ivan Garcia, Association of Officers in Active Retirement (AORA)

Enrique Picado, Nicaraguan Community Movement (MCN)

Favio Tablada, Organization of Disabled Revolutionaries (ORD)

Panama

Minister Denies Existence of Subversive Groups

PA1408153391 Panama City Circuito RPC
Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Report by Mara Rivera]

[Text] Jose Miguel Aleman, deputy government and justice minister, has stated that there is no organized group carrying out subversive actions in Panama, adding that there are small groups that are not satisfied with the changes that have taken place.

Aleman made the aforementioned statements upon announcing the activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Baptist order in Panama, which is scheduled to take place next year.

[Begin Aleman recording] I, and the persons with whom I have spoken, are of the opinion that these groups or individuals do not represent a threat for the government

or the country. Basically, individuals have caused isolated incidents to take place in the country.

There are really no grounds for adopting measures, because there have been isolated incidents caused by individuals. One could not say that there is an organization that is threatening the country or the government. There is nothing even close to this. [end recording]

Nonetheless, Assistant District Attorney Carlos Herrera Moran has told the media many times of the existence of subversive groups in remote areas of the country.

In the meantime, Juan McKenzie, who has been charged with being a member of a terrorist group called M-20 [20 December Movement], which according to Aleman does not exist, remains under arrest at the PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] installations.

Commentary on U.S. Military Vehicles in Capital

PA1408153491 Panama City EL DIARIO
INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 14 Aug 91 p 8

[Unattributed article: "Another Invasion?"]

[Text] If you travel down Frangipani Street, which is really called Luis F. Clement Street, and if you turn right toward Curundu when you reach the Santa Fe Hospital, taking the road to the canal area, you will only have to travel 5 meters before you see an enormous number of military vehicles parked on the left side of the road.

Most of the vehicles are the sadly remembered "Hummers" that the Panamanian people will never forget and which bring back so many memories about the humiliating invasion and its sequels. All of the units are painted plain beige [previous word is underlined].

The most curious thing is that neighboring sectors are reverted areas and the appearance of so many war vehicles seems like a miniature version of the preparations for Operation Desert Shield [previous three words are underlined]. No way anyone, either the occupants or the occupied, can explain their presence there....

DEA Reportedly Questions Businessmen

PA1408175091 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish
(ECOS DEL VALLE Supplement) 14 Aug 91 p 1

[Article by Blas Julio]

[Text] Narcotics agents from the DEA are very active in Chiriqui Province and are questioning a series of big businessmen who are possibly involved in laundering drug trafficking money, confidential sources have reported.

It all seems to indicate that the aforementioned agency has complete information on certain Chiriqui characters who for many years have gotten rich as a result of their direct contacts with the Colombian mafia, which has its roots all over the Chiriqui region.

It is important to point out that one of the key areas of drug trafficking activities in the region is Puerto Armuelles, where drug traffickers have been able to strengthen the distribution, sale, and consumption of the criminal scourge because of the town's permanent commercial activity.

According to our sources, the DEA should already be working in the area we have just mentioned as well as in Santa Marta and Concepcion, where distributors supposedly have several deposits of cocaine and marijuana, which will supposedly be sold to small consumers, students, children, etc. who do not have enough money to buy large quantities of drugs.

We have learned that the DEA has already been able to question several big businessmen. It is unknown whether anyone has been arrested, although there are rumors that the owner of a hotel under construction may have been captured. The foreign businessman is probably building the hotel with Colombian mafia money.

The fact is that the Chiriqui population is pleased with the actions that this important narcotics agency is taking in the province. For many years it has been in the hands of the Colombian drug traffickers, who in spite of strong harassment continue to carry out all of their activities and to hurt thousands and thousands of Chiriqui residents.

Ministers Favor 'National Concerted Effort'

PA1408163991 Panama City Radio KW Continente
in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Report by Marisel Mendez; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Various political groups in Panama have called on all political parties in the country to join hands in order to remedy the failures that make us stumble in our reemerging democracy and to help train ourselves to handle the canal efficiently in the year 2000.

Education Minister Marcos Alarcon spoke in favor of the idea, provided that punishment for the people who have attacked our country over the past few years was not overlooked.

[Alarcon] "Panama needs the opportunity for everyone to reconcile, without forgetting the trials of and sanctions against the people who have committed crimes and attacked the Panamanian people for the past 21 years."

Acting Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino described the idea as positive, provided it was not turned into a political show [preceding word in English].

[Mulino] "I believe that a national concerted effort is good and very positive, provided everyone sits down to discuss matters in good faith and goodwill. If it is only to prepare a political show [preceding word in English] or to try to reduce pressures or create a smokescreen for the true solutions to the problems, I would oppose it. If the

concerted effort is frank and sincere, we, as Panamanians, should endorse this initiative."

Housing Minister Guillermo Quijano said that a concerted effort was necessary, but we needed to discuss many other topics in addition to the Panama Canal.

[Quijano] "I do believe we need to make a national concerted effort, but I believe that we must not discuss only canal issues. I believe the canal is the banner that should unite all Panamanians, but there are bound to be many people with differing opinions."

Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo also agreed on a national concerted effort.

[Galindo] "The country has so many different problems that we need to make a collective effort to try and move the country ahead. If a concerted political effort is what it takes, then I would agree."

Health Minister Guillermo Rolla Pimentel said that the country's problems unite us, but the idea of a political concerted effort needed to be studied further.

[Rolla] "Panamanians stand together in certain common problems such as the canal area, democracy, and liberty, but as far as national concerted efforts are concerned, I believe that political parties need to review their positions first, before sitting down to talk about concerted agreements."

Labor Minister Jorge Ruben Rosas said that ever since he took office he has put into effect the idea of a national concerted agreement as the only way to come out ahead.

[Rosas] "The idea of a national concerted effort is an initiative that the labor minister has put into effect since the first day we took office. We have taken this view, convinced that this is the way to improve the national economy, reduce unemployment, and deal with a variety of problems—political, economic, social—all sorts of problems."

If the political parties represented by the government ministers are aware of the need for unity and the need to emerge through the national concerted effort requested by the Christian Democratic Party and other opposition groups, what are we waiting for to meet in good faith and at long last push Panama ahead?

Human Rights Group Names 'Political Prisoners'

PA1408170791 Panama City LA CRONICA
in Spanish 14-21 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] Olga Mejia, president of the National Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Panama, has said in response to questions from reporters from the weekly LA CRONICA that it is necessary to explain that a discussion of human rights requires an overall analysis, since human rights encompass individual, civil, economic,

social, and cultural rights. She emphasized that there is also the right to self-determination, sovereignty, and peace.

"A nation is a state that does not practice self-determination, is incapable of guaranteeing or protecting the basic requirements encompassed in the economic, social, or cultural rights of the people. [sentence as published] Therefore, once those people organize and naturally begin to protest and to demand certain benefits as a part of their economic rights, the state that is incapable of meeting the people's demands will have to practice repression and thereby violate individual rights or the people's civil rights," Mejia said.

In reference to curtailing individual rights and to the subject of political prisoners in Panama, Mejia commented that, although the national government maintains that there are no political prisoners in Panama, her organization feels that they do exist. She cited the cases of the Benjamin Colamarco, Enrique Thompson, and Arturo Marquinez, the three commanders of the former Dignity Battalions who have been charged with attempts against the international security of the state; in other words, they are in custody for having defended their country against the occupation forces.

After stating that charges have been invented and false witnesses obtained to keep political prisoners behind bars, Mejia cited the case of reporters Marshall McKleen, who was arrested because of statements by five false witnesses, and Omar Ayola, who was a prisoner for three months thanks to three false witnesses.

Asked about the relationship between her office and the Human Rights Committee headed by Roberto Troncoso and her opinion of that committee, Mejia said that there is no relationship whatsoever. She added that at this point, statements made by a Human Rights Committee that swore in the present government on a U.S. military base are very questionable, no matter how much they may appear to support the people. She said she thinks that the committee is moved more by private interest than by a true love of the poor and concern over the people's needs.

Arnulfist Rejects Panamenist Rapprochement

PA1408171991 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE
in Spanish 13 Aug 91 pp 29, 40

[Report by Roberto Cubilla]

[Text] Dr. Carlos Young Adames, of the governing Arnulfist Party, has rejected the possibility of a rapprochement between the Doctrinaire Panamenist Party, the Authentic Panamenist Party, and his party. He said that organizing his party's 27 September national convention is his only concern now.

The Panamanian politician said that the Arnulfists are currently preparing for the convention, at which the party's president and executive committee will be

elected. Representatives of the Political Commission and the National Directorate as well as provincial and district directors will also be elected at that convention.

Right now the party is preparing a draft of convention regulations that should be completed this week. The idea is that the convention take place within democratic norms, Dr. Carlos Young Adames stated.

Regarding who could become the party's president, Young Adames said that many people have been mentioned, because the Arnulfist Party has many leaders. He said that on 27 September "it will be demonstrated that the political group remains united."

The Arnulfist leader denied that he has any presidential ambitions. He said that President Guillermo Endara Galimany and Mireya Moscoso de Gruber are the most probable candidates to the party presidency.

Young Adames said: "First we are going to resolve the national convention problem so that we may have a democratic convention that will encourage the militants to assist and to demonstrate their militancy."

Finally, Young Adames said that there is no plan to move closer to the Arnulfist sectors that founded the Doctrinaire Panamenist Party and the Authentic Panamenist Party, but "any kind of alliance is possible with people wanting to work for a better Panama."

University Students Block Transisthmian Highway

PA1408185991 Panama City Radio KW Continente
in Spanish 1817 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Report by Iris Dawkin]

[Text] FER-29 [Revolutionary Students Front] students began to block the Transisthmian Highway in front of the University of Panama at about 1230. Let us listen to statements by one of the student leaders, who will explain why they are currently on the streets. They have pointed out that they will stay there indefinitely until a solution is reached on their fellow National Institute high school students, as well as on the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] workers, who are on a hunger strike at the Apostolic Nunciature. Let us listen to one of the FER-29 students from the University of Panama.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified student] We cannot disregard ongoing situations. We must express our solidarity with the students and the people's organizations and we will take to the streets as often as necessary because we do not want the people's interests to be distorted. The workers' lives are at stake here and the current authorities have disregarded events that are taking place. It is a mockery of the student movement and to the worker movement because, while we have called for the mediation of the Catholic Church, Education Minister Marcos Alarcon has rejected the church's mediation in this conflict.

[Reporter] There are many people who have begun to chain themselves [so as not to be removed]. Will you be taking this same type of measure?

[Student] Organizations in Panama are setting the example for the national government, which represents the real terrorists in this country, those who repress and persecute the student and worker movements. [end recording]

As of now, a small number of students remain on the streets and the authorities have yet to make a decision about clearing the Transisthmian Highway.

Argentina**Menem Questioned in Money Laundering Case**

PY1408183791 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS

ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1410 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Aug (NA)—President Carlos Menem will have to answer, in writing, a list of questions put to him by Judge Miguel Pons. In answering these questions, Menem will have to state the number of occasions he met with Judge Maria Servini de Cubria, and if the narcodollar laundering case was discussed during these meetings. He will also have to substantiate his remarks that Rita Auteiral [a former clerk of Judge Cubria] lied when she raised charges of irregularities against Judge Cubria.

The newspaper "PAGINA 12" today reports that Judge Pons sent Menem a note listing 14 questions in connection with the case, which was opened to investigate Auteiral's charges against Cubria.

Pons asks Menem to confirm the remarks he made to several media organizations on 10 August in which he admitted having met on several occasions with Judge Cubria to discuss electoral issues.

Pons also asked Menem to state the number of occasions on which he met with Cubria, where those meetings were held, and those in attendance of the meetings.

Also, Judge Pons asked Menem if Judge Cubria informed him that government officials were involved in the narco-dollar laundering case she was hearing.

Pons also asked Menem "if Messrs. Caserta, Emir Yoma, and Iribarren (the latter, Amira Yoma's attorney) met with him at the Government House at 1800 on 6 March this year," and if so, "did the meeting focus on articles published by the Spanish magazine CAMBIO 16 and other publications which link government officials with the laundering of narcodollars."

Judge Pons asks Menem "why the meeting was held at the Government House" and, "if a course of action was decided at that meeting, what was it?"

Judge Pons finally asked Menem if Judge Cubria asked him to replace the prosecutor in the case, or if such a request was put to him by Justice Minister Leon Arslanian, Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo, or by Attorney General Oscar Roger.

Castro Expresses Desire To Meet With Menem

PY1408152891 Madrid EFE in Spanish

1203 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Aug (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro has described soccer player Diego Maradona as a "great athlete" and expressed interest in talking with Argentine President Carlos Menem "to get to know him better."

In remarks published today by the local newspaper "PAGINA 12," Castro said he deeply appreciates "Maradona's offer to coach soccer in Cuba" and wished

him much success "because very serious work is required." ["porque se requiere un trabajo muy serio."]

Castro added that he is "a close friend" of Maradona, saying that he hopes Maradona "has fun both as an athlete and as a coach."

Commenting on Maradona's drug rehabilitation treatment, Castro said that he knows Maradona is doing well now, that he is "in good spirits, enjoying peace with his family."

Castro noted that although he does not know President Menem very well, he wished him success "amid the difficulties Argentina is facing," adding that he would like to talk to Menem "to get to know him better."

Bolivia**President Names New Armed Forces Commander**

PY1508030891 La Paz Television Boliviana

Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpts] President Jaime Paz Zamora today administered the oath of office to General Victor Guzman Bruno as new Armed Forces commander in chief.

The ceremony at the Government Palace was attended by all the cabinet ministers, top military authorities, and government officials. President Jaime Paz Zamora administered the oath of office to the new commander. [passage omitted]

Gen. Victor Guzman Bruno thanked the president for his appointment and committed himself to work for the development of the institution.

[Begin Guzman recording] My task will be to continue the work of my predecessor, because the institutionalization of the Armed Forces is everyone's task, the task of rulers as well as the ruled. We all need to find the best way to further develop the Armed Forces. [end recording].

Also, former Armed Forces Commander General Jorge Moreira was present during the ceremony. [passage omitted]

*** Paz Zamora on Integration, Military, Narcotics**

91SM0421A Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish

17 Jul 91 pp 1-A, 21-A, 27-A, 37-A

[Report on interview with President Jaime Paz Zamora by Armando Sepulveda Ibarra in La Paz on 16 July: "Latin America Either Integrates or Disappears From the Map": Paz Zamora]

[Text] La Paz, Bolivia, 16 Jul—President Jaime Paz Zamora has stated that the countries of Latin America

must integrate "if we do not want to disappear from the map and lose all ability to compete on the world market."

The conditions for integration are better than ever today, and if the leaders of the Latin American countries fail to act with the necessary initiative, "the other agents of power in their own societies will have to demand integration as a requirement for survival on the basis of their own interests," he cautioned.

His face scarred and his hands bearing witness to his struggles against Bolivian dictatorships, Paz Zamora nonetheless still looks youthful at age 52. During the interview with this EXCELSIOR correspondent he commented on various issues:

- The inordinate spread of an economic, criminal force like drug trafficking represents a threat "per se" to the governments and countries in which it operates.
- The democratic processes in Latin America are growing stronger. Democracy as a system is already irreversible. It has a future and prospects, and what we must hope for is a refinement of democracy, so that by the next century we have a more perfect system than what we today call democracy.
- Latin American dictatorships had fascist traits in some countries that have very strong bourgeoisies with European roots, whereas in others the militarist tradition of coups d'etat that has marked Latin America since the wars of independence was a stronger influence. Militarism has breathed its last.

Raised a Catholic, from the seminary to studies in parochial schools, and, paradoxically, having guerrilla training (he was an urban liaison man for the post-Guevara guerrillas), Paz Zamora says that he is a man of the left. He speaks with passion and also resorts to body language to emphasize his words.

"I find that President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's policies are a response that Mexico was waiting for. The results are there to see. A response that has great potential not only in the economy but in politics itself too. Perhaps in the economic arena the response has been more decisive, while in politics it is the beginning of a response. In other words, a lot of things still have to happen in Mexican politics. The policies that Mexico is pursuing are positive for the country and ultimately for the continent, because Mexico is part of Latin America, and whatever happens in Mexico unquestionably has repercussions in the region.

"Borrowing in Latin America was completely irresponsible and has also been criminal in many cases.

"Latin American countries are not bankrupt, and now solutions can be seen. Unfortunately, in some countries their social cost is very high.

"The 1990's look good for Latin America, but the tasks of distribution, participation, and social solidarity will unquestionably remain undone for a long time yet."

An official photographer, giving instructions, was looking for the angles that would lighten the burn marks on his face. The flashbulbs going off seemed at times to remind Paz Zamora of the bombing on 2 June 1979, when he and four other congressional candidates were flying in a chartered light plane to a company owned by Colonel Luis Arce Gomez (who is serving a life sentence today in the United States for drug trafficking). After catching fire, the aircraft crashed on the La Paz high plateau, and the strong young Paz Zamora ran out covered in flames, the sole survivor.

"The Organization of American States has been used. It has been a tool that in many cases did not serve the purposes for which it had been created. Now it is starting to regain its vitality and dynamism. Its record looks like this: in the beginning it was useful, then it became useless, and now it is starting to be useful again, and let us hope that it continues to be.

"As for President Bush's Initiative for the Americas, the important thing would be for groups of Latin American countries to be able to offer joint proposals to counter that one. But this is turning out to be a bit slow, with a lot of rhetoric and grandstanding."

He is the president of the country that holds the record for coups d'etat and in which drug trafficking is a major factor in the economy. Paz Zamora acts like a visionary and often invokes God. He thanks God for having saved his life during that bombing and, showing the same faith, has been saying since he was a youth that he was predestined to become Bolivia's chief executive.

"We have already seen the last of militarism in modern Bolivia, which is already moving ahead under democracy, and not just for the time being. There has been a structural change in the armed forces.

"The country's power structure has not been affected by drug trafficking. The coca-leaf growing area will not be militarized. We will preserve the traditional growing and eliminate the surplus, which is being diverted into drug trafficking."

Paz Zamora spoke with this correspondent in Quemado Palace, where over the past 150 years some 50 rulers installed by military coup have served (100 others have seen their armed attempts to take the presidential chair frustrated). The president said this about the Guadalajara summit meeting and the efforts towards Latin American integration:

"I think that for the first time the conditions really go beyond the subjective view of those who would like to hasten integration. The world has changed so much that not only Latin America but the whole planet has realized that in order to be competitive in the 21st century you need to have large economic regions, in other words, to

have countries that are really continents. That is to say, whether we like it or not, if we do not want to disappear from the map and lose all ability to compete on the world market, we have to integrate. If it is conditions we are talking about, they have never been better than today.

"It is better to integrate willingly than de facto, because what do we gain from talking so much when all of our consumer goods are from the United States. It would be better to have the flow in two directions, and accordingly we have talked, we have come to terms. I do not think that the signing of the Free Trade Treaty with Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market], for example, is incompatible. Integration processes need larger scales now, continent-wide scales. I would even say that integration processes are taking place on a world scale. The process of integration is ultimately going to wind up forming a single economic circuit all over the planet between now and the middle of the next century. Now then, we Latin Americans must have a dual perspective on integration: one that is cultural, historic, but without losing sight of the economic dimension.

"In economic integration it is not contradictory for Latin America to belong to a free-trade area or a common market later on with countries like the United States and Canada. Let us not hold onto to a nostalgic notion of integration; rather, let us integrate this nostalgic notion, which comes from our cultural history, with a very pragmatic notion: economics, because economics are ultimately the only things that integrate. Europe did not integrate out of nostalgia but rather for economic reasons (and theirs is the only integration effort that has been successful so far) and for political reasons in the sense of creating conditions so that a war could never again break out between European countries. So I see all of the integration processes on the continent as mutually compatible."

Paz Zamora is one the founders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), in which various ideological groups that wanted to overthrow dictator Hugo Banzer between 1971 and 1978 were active. During this period there were hundreds of murders and concentration camps, and during the first few weeks after the coup d'etat some 10,000 Bolivians had to flee from the repression and seek exile. Paz Zamora became president of the republic in 1989 with the support of Banzer's party, with which he forged a parliamentary majority. He now governs jointly with the former dictator; half of the cabinet consists of Banzer men.

"Latin America is undergoing a modular process of integration. Several subprocesses of integration have started up at the same time, but they are modular in the sense that they are not incompatible with the neighboring processes. And ultimately they will tend to come together in modular fashion to form a single continent-wide integration process. So, the most imaginative approaches and the biggest surprises will be evaluated. Things that were unthinkable 10 years ago are happening: Venezuela and Colombia are talking with

Mexico; we are talking with them and with Mercosur; Chile is going to meet in Guadalajara with Colombia, Venezuela, and Mexico."

"Are there answers to Latin America's crisis? Will the 1990's be a wasted decade, as they 1980's were?"

"Bolivia is not wasting it, and all indications are that we are entering into a very important decade in the history of our country. And this business of the 1980's being a wasted decade is not valid for everyone either. Because in the 1980's we consolidated our democracy. The awful decade for us was the 1970's. In the 1980's, it is true, inflation and the crisis exploded on us in our economy, but it was then that we tackled the crisis successfully and we began the 1990's with growth prospects. So, I think that the 1990's look good for Bolivia and other countries, not all of them unfortunately. But in our area the tasks of distribution, participation, and social solidarity will unquestionably remain undone for a long time yet."

"Mr. President, could you give us your analysis of democracy and dictatorships in Latin America, of militarism and coups d'etat? What has their cost been? Is there no longer any danger? Are we really democratic nations?"

"The danger that democracy will be interrupted is always latent everywhere in the world, but I think that democratic processes are growing stronger in Latin America, and we can reasonably say that as a system it is already irreversible. Because, moreover, here we always have to look from the perspective of the planet. We can no longer fail to talk about the entire planet. It would seem that the trend is worldwide. So, to reverse this trend, to turn back, also has to do with the fate of the planet. Therefore, I think that in this sense the democratic system has a future, has prospects, and what we have to hope for is that this democracy is refined in such a way that by the next century we have a much more perfect system that what we today call democracy.

"It seems that as of this point history can no longer go backwards but rather has to move forwards. Democracy has become an extraordinary revolutionary process that is manifesting itself in particular in Latin America, in Europe, and elsewhere around the planet. It is a true revolution of democracy, because conflict and confrontation are no longer the mechanism of revolution; rather, change is coming about precisely the other way: through understanding and consensus. And by way of this mechanism such major changes are coming about that just a few years ago we would have never even conceived of them happening without fighting, without bloodshed."

Now that General Hugo Banzer has become, as people here sarcastically say, "one of the most democratic Bolivians," and now that he is running for president again, it seems that many have forgotten the Banzer dictatorship, but the intellectuals who at the time chose exile over repression fear that the military man will return full time to power. Paz Zamora talked next about coups:

"In Latin America the military presence was very typical of an inexplicable era and occurred at the same time almost throughout the region. In some countries that have very strong bourgeoisies, this militarism had fascist traits. They were dictatorships that arrived on our continent 40 or 50 years after they did in Europe; they had strong European roots, and this happened in the countries with the strongest European element. But in other countries this latest cycle of military governments that we had had more to do with the militaristic, coup d'etat tradition of Latin Americans. We must distinguish between a fascist-style military government and one that may belong to the tradition in which militarism has played an ongoing role ever since the wars of independence. This was the case in Bolivia."

After its dictatorships Bolivia returned to democracy in 1985 with the legendary Dr. Victor Paz Estenssoro, a three-time president, uncle of the current chief executive, and the only man who has been on the Bolivian political scene for the past 70 years. Paz Zamora was a political prisoner under the Banzer dictatorship and also went into exile.

"The fact is that in Bolivia only people without much analytical ability spoke of fascism in the case of the military government, because we did not have the [word illegible] bourgeoisie to lend this substance. I at least feel that Bolivia and other countries, such as Paraguay, have had this sort of militarism since independence. I think that this was the last of it in modern Bolivia, which is already moving ahead under democracy, and not just for the time being, because there has already been a structural change in the role that the armed forces have been playing since the war of independence. Since democracy has been restored, the Bolivian armed forces have perhaps been the ones that have been on their best democratic behavior. This is an interesting case. They were the most rebellious in the past, and yet now they are an example for the area. The Armed Forces are showing a rather incredible desire to modernize their role in the State and become a functional element under democracy."

"Mr. President, what is your view of drug trafficking? What sort of threat is it? Can it destabilize and threaten the governments and countries in which it operates?"

Paz Zamora is the president of a country whose "financial cushion" is the inflow of foreign exchange from the coca-leaf/cocaine business. He replied:

"The inordinate spread of an economic, criminal force like drug trafficking unquestionably represents a threat 'per se.' A force that has money, and no one knows where it is, and no one controls this force, is unquestionably a threat. And to see whether it is an altogether irreversible and uncontrollable threat, it has to be viewed and analyzed in the context of each country in which it operates. I do not think that in Bolivia right now it is a threat that the country cannot control. Because in

Bolivia, moreover, the main thing about this phenomenon is to be found, rather, among the campesinos who grow the raw material. This is the major part of the problem; the other part, the minor one, has to do with drug trafficking as such. Therefore, I do not find that the campesinos, my fellow countrymen, are a threat to our country. But we are giving the campesinos a specific solution, an option for work, employment, well-being, and we must ask them not to expand their growing of coca. We must not ask them to stop growing it completely, because that would run counter to our national identity, but we can ask them not to expand their growing. We have to give them options under our program 'Coca for Development.' We are aiming all our guns here, without neglecting our responsibilities to the international community in the field of intervention against the drug-trafficking organizations proper.

"Based on our evidence, the concept of the cartel that arose in Colombia does not exist in any way in Bolivia. Some foreign newsmen has dishonestly spoken of cartels in Bolivia. This is silly, untrue. But if they do exist, we must not underestimate them either. The main thing is to attack the problem of the surplus production of the raw material and control the movements of the people who are already drug traffickers. Alcohol is more of a prevention problem for us than drugs. If we had any money to spend on prevention, we would have to spend it mostly on preventing alcohol use. This is the way it is here."

Paz Zamora added: "The problem of drug trafficking is similar in many ways to the problem of the foreign debt. It is a scourge like the foreign debt. But in drug trafficking, as with the foreign debt, there are common issues that are of interest to the entire international community and come under a common strategy that all of us together ought to be pursuing. But just as with the foreign debt, each country has its own problem, and drug trafficking manifests itself in a specific way in each country. Therefore, if we pay attention to both the general and the particular, the specific, we have to say that for the consuming countries the main thing is prevention policy. For the countries that are middlemen, or that market, or provide services, or are conduits for drugs, the main thing is interdiction, a crackdown. In speaking with President Bush I said that the best way for him to fight the drug-trafficking problem in Bolivia is to invest in Bolivia, because drug trafficking cannot be separated from unemployment, the economic crisis. In Bolivia drug trafficking is linked to poverty, to critical poverty."

A friend of Fidel Castro, Felipe Gonzalez, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez since he was in the opposition, President Paz Zamora offers his visitor some coca tea, the national beverage, or "the food of the campesinos." He is a courteous man who has studied for a master's degree in social and political sciences at the Catholic University in Louvain, Belgium. As for Castro's position on Latin America's foreign debt, he said:

"Fidel, who is a friend of mine, invited me to Cuba for one of the meetings that he held on the foreign debt. The Cubans wanted me to be among those to open the event, and I told them no. Afterwards, Fidel walked up to me in the Convention Hall in Havana and told me: Well, Jaime, why don't you want to speak? I said to him: Fidel, because I do not want to contradict you in your own country. We are too good friends for me to do that. When all is said and done, I thought that his assertion (that the debt is unpayable) was too fundamentalist, because there is fundamentalism on the right, on the left, religious fundamental, all kinds. And life is not like that; it is not so black and white. I said to him: I will cite the example of my country, Fidel. In Bolivia the debt is payable, so I as a Bolivian cannot go around saying that it is unpayable. And now it has been demonstrated fully. Under my administration, which is going to be two years old in a month, we have paid \$1 billion of our foreign debt, and right now we owe \$3.5 billion. I was saying that we had no reason to be fundamentalists because each country borrowed in its own way. Now, Bolivia can borrow in several places; we have responded and are paying back our debt, and we can obtain credit to a certain level commensurate with our economy. And we have a heavier flow of money coming in and out. For every \$1 that leaves, \$2.6 come in.... In conclusion, events are showing that (in Latin America) the borrowing was altogether irresponsible. At least in Bolivia it was. Eighty percent of the borrowing was irresponsible, and it has also been criminal borrowing in many cases, totally out of control, because there was a de facto government. Yet, everything has a solution in life, and we can see that in the end countries are not going bankrupt. So much the better. A solution is always found, as we are seeing. Unfortunately, in some countries it is coming now at a very high social cost. In Bolivia we have managed it relatively inexpensively. I think that solving this problem is much tougher in other countries."

Paz Zamora is a charismatic leader who switched from the guerrillas to the MIR, which he later aligned with European Social Democracy. At present, he describes himself in all forums as a leftist and denies that his administration is neoclassical-liberal, even though he is exemplary in applying its theories: the sale of government-run enterprises, free trade, spurring foreign investment, economic austerity, massive dismissals of workers in parastate companies.

"Mr. President, how has the Organization of American States behaved over the years? Has it met the needs and served the interests of Latin American countries?"

"It did in the beginning, then it stopped, and now it is doing so again. After the Second World War, all indications were that there had to be a meeting place that in one way or another took us into account. Later on, the OAS was used; it became a tool that in many cases did not serve the purposes for which it had been created. Now, in its democratic period, when all of its members, or at least the overwhelming majority, are adopting

promising democratic systems, this is being felt in the OAS, and the OAS itself is starting to regain its vitality and dynamism. Let us hope that it continues in this direction. Its record looks like this: In the beginning it was useful, then it became useless, and now it is starting to be useful again, and let us hope that it continues to be. In any case, however, we must stop being pessimistic. Elsewhere it has been worse. I think that new institutions like this have worked worse than ours. We must have heart and hope that we can lend new substance to the OAS to the extent that all of its members are democratic countries that have prospects for modernization."

Paz Zamora also spoke of Mexico and President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. "I think highly of him. President Salinas de Gortari embodies traits that are hard to find: competence and simplicity. I think that his policies are a response that Mexico has been waiting for. The results are there to see. A response that has great potential not only in the economy but in politics itself too. Perhaps in the economic arena the response has been more decisive, while in politics it is the beginning of a response. In other words, a lot of things still have to happen in Mexican politics. This is the feeling that I have from here. But in the economy, the plan that is already under way includes more or less what has to be done. He is also launching ambitious social programs, and I do not know how they are going to turn out, because this is complex too. You can spend a lot of money and not necessarily do much in the social arena, but I hope that it goes well for him. Salinas is a person whom I respect, admire, and love. I have learned to appreciate him, and I think that his policies are positive for your country and ultimately positive for the continent, because Mexico is part of Latin America, and whatever happens in Mexico has repercussions in the region."

President Paz Zamora feels that the Initiative for the Americas is "a good thing and timely. If everything is changing in Europe, why shouldn't it happen in the Americas too. An initiative in response to that initiative has not come from Latin America, and this is our fault. It is important for groups of Latin American countries to offer joint proposals to counter that one. But this is turning out to be a bit slow, with a lot of rhetoric and grandstanding."

He also touched on the issue of neoclassical-liberalism: "I, as a leftist, do not accept (the term). I do not feel that I am pursuing neoclassical-liberal policies, but rather rational policies that correct long-standing errors that had been building up in our country during periods in which perhaps it needed a strong state to affirm a sort of national personality. But it all turned out to be an economically irrational hindrance that had to be changed. But our model, if you analyze it, is a model of stability, of growth, and this is neither rightist nor leftist. It means being stable and growing, but it is also a model with social investments."

"We do not accept attempts at hegemony in the process that is going on in Latin America. We are leaving behind

the stage of nationalizations, which in the 1940's seemed revolutionary acts, perhaps because our countries needed such actions to affirm or attempt to affirm their national and economic identity," he explained.

Brazil

Government on Antidrug Struggle With U.S.

PY1508002691 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network
in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Reported by Gustavo Mariani from Itamaraty]

[Text] Itamaraty, Federal Police, and Federal Narcotics Council [Conselho Federal de Entorpecentes] representatives met this morning at the Foreign Ministry to discuss methods of cooperation between Brazil and the United States in the antinarcotics struggle.

On the U.S. side, the main participant in the meeting was Melvyn Levitsky, assistant secretary for international narcotics matters.

Brazil and the United States want to join efforts and implement specific programs to reduce the demand, prevent the misuse, and combat the production and trafficking of drugs.

The two countries also pledge to supply equipment and human and financial resources for the program, as well as to exchange information and provide mutual technical-scientific assistance.

All the activities involved in the bilateral cooperation will meet the requirements of the two countries.

Brazil and the United States signed an agreement on the antinarcotics struggle in September 1986, but it only became a presidential decree in July 1991.

Collor Meets With Promoted Military Officers

PY1408203691 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 14 Aug 91 p 9

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday, 24 generals who were promoted on 31 July presented themselves to President Fernando Collor, who used the ceremony at the Planalto Palace to decorate Generals Haroldo Erschen da Fonseca and Jorge de Sant'Anna with the military medal for 50 years of service.

Collor emphasized that he decided to promote the officers after confirming throughout their careers traits such as self-sacrifice, discipline, competence, and their resolve to fight for Brazil.

The promoted officers are:

Navy—Squadron admirals: Sergio Alves Lima and Carlos E. Cezar de Andrade; vice admiral: Luiz A. Carvalhal Junqueira; rear admirals: Paulo Lafayette

Pinto, Jorge A. Pereira da Silva, Sergio Rodrigues Canelas, and Fernando A. Simoes Quintaes.

Army—Army generals: Clovis Jacy Burmann and Geise Ferrari; division generals: Sergio Ruschel Bergamaschi, Francisco A.P. de Paula Pessoa, Domingos Miguel, Antonio Gazzineo, and Orlando de Carvalho; brigade generals: Sergio A. da Rocha Ambrosio, Jose L. Junqueira Alvarenga, Dyonelio F. Morosini, Oacyr Pizzotti Minervino, Jose G. Chaves Nunes, and Fabio A. Pereira da Silva.

Air Force—Brigadiers of air: Henrique Marini e Souza, Marcos A. de Oliveira, and Fernando de Almeida Vasconcellos; medical brigadier: Joao C. de Andrade Figueiredo.

Supreme Court To Prosecute Deputy Jabes Rabelo

Prosecution License Granted

PY1408203091 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO
in Portuguese 14 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies' Justice Commission yesterday decided to grant the required license for the Federal Supreme Court to prosecute Deputy Jabes Rabelo on charges of accepting a stolen car in 1985. Today, the Chamber of Deputies' plenum will vote on a motion suspending Rabelo's parliamentary immunity.

More Evidence Revealed

PY1408135091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television
in Portuguese 2300 GMT 13 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Deputy Jabes Rabelo might be facing another inquiry. The CPI [Congressional Investigating Commission] investigating the drug trafficking Mafia has obtained a forged document that was allegedly used by Rabelo and Deputies Mauricio Calixto and Nobel Moura to incriminate Deputy Raquel Candido in illegal activities. Deputy Candido denounced the illegal activity in Rondonia State.

The work of the CPI has begun in earnest. The first person to speak was Deputy Robson Tuma, the son of Police Chief Romeu Tuma. He handed a petition to the president of the CPI calling for the cessation of the mandates of three Rondonia State federal deputies who are already facing charges of drug trafficking: Nobel Moura, Mauricio Calixto, and Jabes Rabelo.

The CPI has discovered in Rondonia that the three deputies were using a forged document to incriminate Deputy Raquel Candido in cocaine trafficking. [passage omitted]

Government Rules Out Changes in Terms of Accord

PY1408151291 Brasilia Radio Nacional
da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT
14 Aug 91

[Text] Brazil has ruled out changing the terms of the accord signed with Paraguay, over the use of the energy produced by the Itaipu Hydroelectric Dam. The accord establishes that each country has the right to 50 percent of the energy

and the right to purchase the energy surplus from the other partner. This accord is effective until the year 2023. According to Fernando Xavier Ferreira, chairman of the Itaipu Binational Enterprise, Brazil does not want to change the terms of the accord.

Paraguay seeks to change the terms of the accord so that it can sell its energy surplus to Uruguay and Argentina.

Chile

* PS Vice President Discusses Party, Policies

91SM0434A Santiago LA NACION in Spanish
14 Jul 91 pp 6-7

[Interview with Ricardo Nunez, Vice President of the Socialist Party, by Monica Gonzalez; place, date not given]

[Text] With his measured speech, bushy moustache, and the appearance of something between a grade school teacher and a trade union leader, this senator does not plan to hide the mark left on him by his father, founder of the Confederation of Copper Workers and a member of the National Falange, and by his 36 years in the Socialist Party (PS). During the 1960s he was a member of that PS Central Committee that advocated seizing power. He endured the events of 11 September at the Technical University, where he was general secretary. He was tortured at the National Stadium and imprisoned in the Penitentiary. Afterwards, this sociologist and professor of history and geography had to live in exile. He also led a secret life under the name of "Pedro Jimenez."

He returned to Chile in 1980, and his name became the trademark of moderate socialists. He was declared the "preacher" [canuto] of free elections, and he was in the vanguard of those defending the plebiscite as a method of decisionmaking. His greatest frustration is that he was unable to return to the University of Chile as professor of history and geography. But that also is something he states with a serenity that is impressive. "The thing is, I am very content with myself, with my ideas, my plans, and my doubts," he comments. Today, at 51, the senator for the Third Region is preparing to become the top leader of the Socialist Party, under a rotation agreement reached with the current leader, Jorge Arrate.

[Gonzalez] Jorge Arrate was supposed to turn over the reins of the PS to you next November. Will the date be moved up?

[Nunez] That would not be appropriate, because the current leadership has proven to be very serious and responsible.

[Gonzalez] At any rate, you will assume the leadership of the PS this year, and you will compete with the Christian Democrats (DC) for power. Do you welcome the challenge?

[Nunez] It is undoubtedly a great challenge, but as far as power is concerned, I do not want to get into a long and tedious discussion like the one the parties of the left had before. A party that receives more votes than the others is not necessarily the most powerful one.

[Gonzalez] Which one is the most powerful?

[Nunez] The one capable of building society, of influencing all of the interstices of a social body, of orienting the country's economic, cultural, political, and spiritual life, and that is not necessarily done with votes.

[Gonzalez] Is that not an antidemocratic assertion?

[Nunez] No, it is not. We are going to receive more votes than the Socialists have ever gotten. Make no mistake about it: For 56 years, the Chilean Socialists received around 13.8 percent of the vote, and today we are going to raise ourselves up above 20 percent with the Party for Democracy (PPD), which is undeniably a force of progress and social change very similar to our own. This represents a great success.

[Gonzalez] And how is influence obtained?

[Nunez] With that share of the vote we want more than a role in the institutions of government; we want mayors, city council members, deputies, senators, and to the extent possible, quite a few ministers. And we want to run a candidate for president of the republic next term. That 20 percent has to be qualitatively important so that there is no part of the country where the influence of our ideas about change is not felt.

[Gonzalez] What is the difference between taking on the challenges and tasks of this government, and those of the Popular Unity (UP) government?

[Nunez] There are several differences. In the first place, the historical program. Whereas in the UP all of us, more or less, had an absolute vision of social change, today we know that the gradual approach or the process of constant growth of the forces for change is a daily exigency.

The total, absolute utopia, that metaphysical vision of paradise that we wanted to attain, no longer exists today. It is a paradise that we are building today, and not for tomorrow.

[Gonzalez] Have you ever experienced paradise?

[Nunez] Yes. In the struggle against the dictatorship, the moment we triumphed and we were able to show the country that we were in the majority. That was a historic moment for this country.

Rebuilding the Left

[Gonzalez] You said, "There is no political space, as Erich Schnake would like, for a center-left PS. There is space for a PS of the left that can reach an understanding with the center." What is taking shape now, a center-left PS or a left PS?

[Nunez] We are rebuilding the left into a force that expresses the will of all of the most substantive sectors that back it from the political and cultural, doctrinal and social point of view, from the perspective of being a force for change.

[Gonzalez] In the past, the left was a force very closely tied to political and doctrinaire models and men. What about today?

[Nunez] We are coming back from messianism. I think there is no one man in the world left, there are no more Fidel Castros or Lenins, and I think it is not likely that another Salvador Allende will appear in our country. We have come back from that vision in which one man or one party embodied the ideas of change, dignity, and liberty.

[Gonzalez] Where does one get that intangible force that is called spirit [mistica]?

[Nunez] We lack spirit. Sometimes I regard it as a challenge, other times as a fact of life that we must contend with because of the extreme pragmatism that has characterized us. It is a challenge to make one's political and intellectual life a time of constant creativity between spirit and pragmatism. I do not want to cease being a pragmatic man, capable of dealing with the real world, but neither do I want to cloak myself in abstract and generic concepts. I want to imbue these ideas with a degree of spirit that helps me look to the future with more enthusiasm. How the devil do we do it? We do not have the spirit of the 1960s!

[Gonzalez] Do you sometimes feel like an old loser?

[Nunez] No, I feel like an old success.

[Gonzalez] Is there not a kind of conformism, of accommodation to whatever is there?

[Nunez] I think exactly the opposite is true. For example, I have the impression that the great obstacle facing "constructed" socialism was the idea that it did not need improvement. The virtue of the democracy we are building is that all of us, even sectors of the right, have the feeling that it is not democracy that we aspire to. I am certain that with the municipal election not only will we have legitimately installed mayors, but the floodgates will open to greater creativity, more participation by the people.

[Gonzalez] Do you think people feel they are contributing to change?

[Nunez] They do not feel that. People have the impression that this country is being built by the well-paid politicians, that a certain aristocracy of power is being established. The Socialists' challenge is to show that we are in the democracy of power.

Anger and Rationality

[Gonzalez] When have you felt the most uncomfortable, or when have you felt that your very socialist essence has been most violated in Congress?

[Nunez] Several times. Once I tried to express in just a few lines what the 17 years of dictatorship had meant to us. When I saw the insolent faces of the rightist and designated senators—one of them even fell asleep as I spoke—I felt that I was incapable of expressing what we really experienced, what it meant for us to be in jail, in exile, to have our friends and comrades disappear....

[Gonzalez] Did you feel anger or defeat?

[Nunez] I felt anger and irritation with myself. Anger because I realized that we were building a democracy in which a tremendous cloak of insensitivity has been woven.

[Gonzalez] You said that you see the right as being "completely incapable of change, insensitive, unable to understand the moral and human dimensions of what lies behind the 17 years."

[Nunez] I still think that. It is true that with my daily interaction with the leaders of the right, even with Jaime Guzman, who the last time I talked to him no longer had that insolent look on his face, I feel that they, too, were somehow affected by those 17 years. Even if they still support the dictatorship ideologically, from a spiritual point of view I get the impression that those faces are no longer as insolent as they were.

[Gonzalez] Has there been a time when you have had difficulty maintaining your composure in the Senate?

[Nunez] No. We operate there on the basis of the rationality that the institution imposes. In the Senate we are people with tremendous rationality; we constantly have in mind the need to "legislate," which means that the emotional factor is relegated to a much lower plane.

Military Budget

[Gonzalez] The PPD announced that it will propose a \$170 million reduction in the defense budget. What will the PS do?

[Nunez] From our point of view, the issue is: What amount of military spending is appropriate for national defense?

[Gonzalez] Do the conditions exist for holding such a discussion in Congress?

[Nunez] Yes, on the basis of the new contributions of technology linked to military activity, or the greater professionalization of our armed forces, which entails a gradual reduction of military spending without reducing our defense capability. We Socialists intend to promote such a reduction.

[Gonzalez] Will you do so this year?

[Nunez] This year the matter will have to be discussed more thoroughly, in an incomplete way, since we have not even discussed with the armed forces, from the civilian and congressional perspective, the need for them to make adjustments to improve their technical-scientific agility so that they can defend the country efficiently, while at the same time freeing up resources for other sectors that need them urgently.

[Gonzalez] What will happen to the \$4 million intended to pay the salaries of the 1,100 men who belonged to the National Information Center (CNI) and were incorporated into the DINE?

[Nunez] We think it is inappropriate that the government has done so little to take care of this matter. That is why we are going to vote against it.

Municipal Elections

[Gonzalez] You are a member of the municipal reform negotiating commission. Will there finally be elections?

[Nunez] There is still some risk that they will not take place. The threat is from a sector of the right that fears another electoral defeat.

[Gonzalez] Does the Coalition [Concertacion] fear a lower percentage of votes?

[Nunez] No. The Coalition will not only maintain its share of the vote, but will actually increase it.

[Gonzalez] The government plan calls for direct election of mayors. The DC agreed to promote a system of indirect elections. What will the PS do?

[Nunez] For more than a year now, we have been emphasizing the need to choose mayors through direct elections. It is necessary for the mayors' names to be well known; they should not be the product of backroom deals. However, given that our fundamental objective is to have elections and that the Coalition did not unanimously agree on this, and understanding that our objective of preserving the Coalition through pacts by omission for the direct election of mayors was ignored, perhaps as a result of that pragmatism we were talking about, we are willing to accept the indirect election of mayors as well as an even number of council seats.

[Gonzalez] Will you also accept the binomial electoral system?

[Nunez] The electoral system is not binomial. The even number does not mean it is binomial. It is only binomial when two people are elected. The closer we get to the number two, the more it looks binomial. With six council members it is a disguised binomial system. We would accept six council seats for small communities, but we would like 12 for the large communities.

[Gonzalez] What is the significance of Enrique Krauss becoming the head of the government group negotiating the municipal reform?

[Nunez] It is a very positive development. Enrique Krauss has proven to be responsive, flexible, and capable of understanding the demands of the regions, of the opposition, and our own demands. He has put together a good team and has established good relations—which did not exist before—with all the sectors that will actually make the decision on the reform. He represents backing and support.

[Gonzalez] Would you not be very glad to see him leave to accept the presidency of the DC?

[Nunez] If he goes to the party, I will certainly have a good relationship with him as president of my party.

Alliance with DC

[Gonzalez] Do you consider the union between the PS and the DC an electoral pact, a temporary pact, or, as Enrique Krauss said, a "historic and future political pact"?

[Nunez] With all the challenges, difficulties, problems, and obstacles involved in developing an alliance with the DC from the point of view taken by Krauss, I agree with him.

[Gonzalez] What are the differences between this pact with the DC for this government and the pact with the Communists for the government of Salvador Allende?

[Nunez] We shared a cultural and political world with the Communists. We came from the same social sectors and we shared relatively similar ideological visions. Under the UP government, both parties claimed to be Marxist-Leninist. Moreover, the two of us tried to bring about the "Chilean revolution"; that process of structural change of a revolutionary nature was supposed to end up with our becoming a single great party.

[Gonzalez] And the alliance with the DC today?

[Nunez] Neither we nor the Christian Democrats have any intention of joining together in a single party. We are very different in terms of our political background, our cultural origins, and our most fundamental doctrinal definitions. We are two parties that are in a position to coexist with our differences.

Colombia

Gaviria Discusses Restrictions to Extradition

PA1508004891 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 10 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] On 9 August, President Cesar Gaviria stated that the restriction to extradite Colombian nationals approved by the National Constituent Assembly "has stirred some concern with respect to the extent of the application of penal justice in Colombia."

According to the president, some analysts confuse the right all Colombians now have to be tried in Colombia,

with the alleged impunity privilege. This is an erroneous concept. The new Constitution empowers the judicial branch to put on trial all Colombians who have committed crimes in other countries. Colombian nationals who believe they can commit crimes in foreign countries and then find refuge in Colombia to escape justice is completely wrong. President Gaviria added that we are not going to allow Colombia to become a refuge for criminals, pirates and scoundrels." [no opening quotation mark as received]

The Colombian president made these statements during the ceremony inaugurating the new headquarters of the Immigration Division of the Department of Administrative Security (DAS), located in the northern sector of Santa Fe de Bogota. General Miguel Maza Marquez, head of the DAS was also present during the ceremony.

President Gaviria stated that the government is preparing a strategy to increase judicial cooperation between Colombia and other countries.

According to Gaviria "the objective of this policy is to accelerate the procedures where it will be possible to provide evidence material obtained from foreign authorities to judicial cases being conducted in Colombia. The aim is also to cooperate with other countries in prosecuting those persons who have committed crimes in foreign countries."

Gaviria added that, in this respect, agreements have been made with the United States, France, and Spain. Still pending completion are agreements with Great Britain, Cuba, Bolivia, and Ecuador.

In closing, Gaviria stressed the work being done by Gen. Maza as head of the DAS

Venezuelan Planes Allegedly Bomb Arauca Bridge

Authorities Begin Investigation

PA1408190791 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 1742 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Reported by Mario Morales]

[Text] A few minutes ago, two Venezuelan planes violated Colombian airspace and attacked the Arauca International Bridge. One of the planes dropped two bombs, one of which exploded close to the transmitter antennas of La Voz de Cinaruco. A youth, who was riding his bicycle close to the area, was wounded.

At this time, departmental authorities have begun an investigation to determine the exact origin of the aircraft and their reasons for attacking Colombian territory.

The explosion took place approximately 6 km from the urban sector of the capital of Arauca, where the force of the blast was felt. The youth, who was injured in the blast, has been admitted to San Vicente Hospital.

The Arauca control tower has not been able to determine the registration numbers or the type of aircrafts that were involved.

Foreign Minister Explains

PA1408230591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2128 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Colombian Foreign Ministry denied today that Venezuelan airplanes violated the country's airspace and bombed the border town of Arauca.

"This is an accident that has already been settled with the authorities of that country. We are not going to lodge any letter of protest over what happened," Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Fernando Jaramillo Correa stated.

Jaramillo said that Venezuelan Air Force planes were conducting military training operations in the border area, when several grenades "came loose" ["desprendieron"] and exploded on the Arauca River, 470 km east of the country.

Four persons, one Colombian and three Venezuelans, who were moving about on a bridge located on the border were wounded, according to Jaramillo.

"I understand those accidents often occur, and we feel this matter has been clarified," he added. The minister said that Venezuelan authorities pledged, however, to conduct a thorough investigation of the incident.

Police Uncover Plot To Kill Unidentified Officer

PA1508021191 Bogota Inravisión Television
Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Reported by Carlos Gomez Herrera]

[Text] The police have uncovered a plan to assassinate a high-ranking police officer. The authorities have arrested several persons, some of them are from Medellin. Here is more information from Carlos Gomez Herrera:

[Gomez Herrera] Dangerous hired killers, who have picked Bogota as the site for an attack on a high-ranking police officer, are still on the loose. This statement was made by General Dario Rodriguez Zapata, the institution's operational director.

The general said security measures have been adopted to protect high-ranking police officers.

[Background recording] [Rodriguez Zapata] We have information on the presence of some hired killers in the Bogota area. According to intelligence reports that we have, they plan to attack a high-ranking police officer.

[Reporter] Could the plot be against National Police Commander General Miguel Maza?

[Rodriguez Zapata] No, I cannot say the attack will be against General Maza. It could be against any high-ranking police officer with a record of having struggled against all kinds of criminals. We cannot affirm from which city the hired killers could have come. I do not have enough evidence to say they came from this or that city.

[Reporter] Is there any intelligence work underway to frustrate the plans of the hired killers?

[Rodriguez Zapata] Yes, that is correct. There are very dangerous hired killers still on the loose and they are trying to intimidate the authorities. [end recording]

Peru

Shining Path Calls for 3-Day Armed Strike

PA1508045991 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0426 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Text] Ayacucho (Peru), 14 Aug (EFE)—The terrorist "Shining Path" group today called for an "armed strike" in Ayacucho for 16, 17, and 18 August as part of its boycott against Peru's complementary municipal elections scheduled for 18 August.

The "armed strike," a citizens' strike prompted by death threats from Shining Path, was announced in leaflets left in various places of Ayacucho, an Andean city located 575 km southeast of Lima.

Complementary municipal elections will be held in 20 provinces and 371 districts of Peru where mayors and councilmen were not elected in the November 1989 regular elections. According to the National Elections Jury (JNE) 830,000 persons are supposed to vote.

A three-day Shining Path "armed strike against President Alberto Fujimori's policies" took place in this city from 26 to 28 July and, according to observers, all the activities in the city were paralyzed during the first two days but not on the third.

Shining Path militants today killed in San Pedro de Cajas, a town in Peru's central mountain range, in Junin Department, three candidates who were running for posts in these elections.

The police have reported that today, in Los Libertadores Road, 1 km from the center of Ayacucho, Shining Path elements set a bus on fire. The bus was heading for Lima. No one was injured. The source noted that the terrorists urged the passengers to leave the vehicle before setting it on fire.

'Subversives' Prevent Elections in 123 Districts

PY1508014291 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 10 Aug 91 p 6

[Excerpt] Complementary municipal elections were scheduled to take place in 483 districts, but they will not

take place in 123 districts because they are located in zones in a state of emergency where the violence unleashed by subversives has intimidated the population.

The peculiar explanation was released yesterday by a spokesman for the National Election Board (JNE).

The spokesman also reported that provincial electoral courts in places where the election will be held already have elected members for the nearly 5,000 balloting tables that will be installed in various places throughout the country. [passage omitted]

State-Owned TV Ceases Broadcasts 'Indefinitely'

PY1408183291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1635 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Lima, 14 Aug (ANDINA)—President Alberto Fujimori this morning met with Jose Maria Salcedo, chairman of the board of directors of the Peruvian Radio and Television (RTP) company.

Salcedo left Government Palace shortly after 1100 without making any remarks.

Last night Channel 7 suspended indefinitely its broadcasts nationwide due to economic problems.

Further on Transmission Suspension

PA1408193491 Paris AFP in Spanish 1636 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] Lima, 14 Aug (AFP)—Lima's Channel 7 [RTP Television Network], the only government television station in Peru, suspended its transmissions on the night of 13 August because of an unpaid government debt of \$1.5 million, which has brought it to the verge of bankruptcy, the station's president, journalist Jose Maria Salcedo, has announced.

The television station's situation has been aggravated by an imminent workers' strike because salaries have not been paid since June, said a worker on 14 August. He then added that before the transmissions were suspended, they had begun a work stoppage to demand that their wages be paid.

The announcement to suspend the transmissions was made by the government television station's president, who surprisingly interrupted a live program to publicly explain that television programming would be suspended until the government paid its debts to the station.

According to the Peruvian Constitution, the government television station has the responsibility of providing education, culture, information, and entertainment to 22 million Peruvians by means of a large national television network.

Armed Forces Say 20 Provinces Lack Authorities

PY1508014691 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
8 Aug 91 p 6

[Text] According to information given by the Armed Forces to the Chamber of Deputies' Defense Commission, 20 provinces currently lack any type of official authorities—that is, any policemen, judges, or any other kind.

The military spokesmen explained that this problem is the result of the shortage of material resources and personnel, not the neglect of any authority.

In this regard, Deputy Freddy Ghilardi, a Defense Commission member, voiced his belief that the necessary material support should be given to the Armed and Police Forces but also that the civilian sector's support and participation in the struggle against terrorism should be sought.

Nuclear Institute To Promote Partnership

PY1508001491 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
10 Aug 91 p A3

[Text] Jose Dellepiani Masa, Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute (IPEN) president, announced that the institute will promote the partnership of national and foreign enterprises for the production of radioisotopes and nuclear services, taking advantage of the technology developed during the past few years.

According to Dellepiani, "The details of the call for an international tender that will allow the private sector's participation are practically ready and will be submitted by IPEN to the Mines and Energy Ministry."

The IPEN director said inquiries have been made abroad and foreign enterprises already have expressed their interest in a partnership with IPEN.

In Jose Dellepiani's opinion, if IPEN enters a partnership with private enterprises, it could render services in three commercial areas: the production of radioisotopes, analysis through the alteration of neutrons, and silica-measuring radiation services.

Radioisotopes, as is well known, are used chiefly in the medicinal field and to preserve foodstuffs. Silica, in the form of silicon, treated nuclear energy is used to produce components of electronic appliances. The analysis through the alteration of neutrons is used for mineral products.

According to the IPEN president, the demand for these types of services increased significantly throughout the world in the past few years.

He added: "The international market for radioisotopes—just for molybdenum radioisotopes—amounts to \$500 million."

Human Rights Officers To Work at Local Offices

PY1408154691 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish
6 Aug 91 p 12

[Excerpt] The government has decided to create human rights offices in the prefectures, sub-prefectures, and regional governments throughout the country. Local prosecutors will visit police stations to verify police treatment of detainees, while in police custody.

Yesterday's issue of EL PERUANO publishes an Interior Ministry resolution signed by Interior Minister General Victor Malca Villanueva creating human rights offices at the local government level. The General Directorate of Interior Governments will be responsible for implementing the resolution.

The resolution says that human rights offices will hear the complaints of citizens who think their essential rights have been violated.

The General Directorate of Interior Governments will have 15 days as of 31 July to present a proposal to the Interior Ministry regulating the operation of the human rights offices.

Provincial prosecutors and their assistants will visit police stations regularly to control the police treatment of criminals those suspects arrested during the so-called "raids" or operations by police or military units.

Senior Prosecutor [fiscal superior decano] Daniel Caballero Cisneros ordered the visits following repeated proven reports that detainees were being mistreated, provoked, and subjected to all kinds of abuses in police stations.

It was reported that the prosecutors' visit to police stations and other police departments will forestall the "disappearance" of detainees, which has occurred lately. [passage omitted]

Government Ends Monopoly on Oil Sector

PY1408135891 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
7 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] The executive branch yesterday ended the monopoly of the State Petroleum Agency [Petroperu] and its branches in all activities related to the hydrocarbons industry. These operations include the sale of hydrocarbons, the importation, production, and refining of crude oil and byproducts, and the implementation of basic petrochemical operations. This move will allow the participation of the private sector, either from Peru or from abroad.

The executive branch has created the National Commission for Hydrocarbon Prices which comprises five members designated by the president. The commission will promote the deregulation of prices in the sector and will independently set tariffs and any necessary measures.

These two main duties are specified in a decree that the government issued last night, in keeping with the powers established by Congress for the promotion of private investment in the hydrocarbon sector. The decree introduces changes in oil sector laws and adds supplemental regulations.

From now on, new contracts for prospecting and/or exploiting hydrocarbons must be approved by a decree, thus omitting several steps that were previously necessary. This decree authorizing the prospecting for oil will be valid for six years, but it will be possible to extend this term once, for one year, in exceptional cases.

The law allows contractors to export hydrocarbons, provided they are not needed for paying taxes or for supplying the local market.

Contractors may freely use all the revenue from their exports, either through bank accounts in Peru or abroad.

If Petroperu forms a partnership with national or foreign enterprises, the partnership will be totally autonomous and will follow the rules governing the private sector.

The decree instructs the Ministry of Energy and Mines to publish a single, uniform text of the hydrocarbon laws within 120 days.

Explosion Reported at Education Ministry Building

PA1408214691 Lima Panamericana Television
Network in Spanish 1226 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] A fire is raging at this moment on the ninth floor of the Education Ministry building. Apparently, subversive elements fired a projectile that hit the ninth floor and, apparently, the explosion produced the fire.

Windows in nearby floors were broken by the explosion. National police explosives-deactivation units have already arrived. Several fire department units are already at work in and around the building.

The police have reported that leaflets condemning the education minister because of his position on the teachers' strike have been found in the building.

The deadline given to the teachers to return to work expires today. The fire should be out in a few minutes because more fire units are arriving at the site.

Subversives Turn Prison Into Training Center

PY1408165691 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
6 Aug 91 p A 9

[Text] Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) terrorists, who are being held at the Canto Grande prison, have turned their cells into subversive training and indoctrination centers.

Police and prison sources have reported that prison cells have been turned into "bunkers" [preceding word in English] capable of withstanding any external attack.

Male Shining Path terrorists are being held in Pavilion 4-B, and the women are in Pavilion 1-A. Male MRTA terrorists are in Pavilion 2-B, and the women are in the Admission Pavilion.

The four pavilions are painted with subversive slogans, pictures of their leaders, and other subversive "murals."

The entrances to these pavilions are completely controlled by the terrorists who have the keys. INPE [National Penitentiary Institute] personnel are the only ones allowed to enter, apart from the visitors of the inmates. Some PS (Security Police) members are allowed in, but only in the prison yard.

Things are so extreme that the inmates are establishing the conditions for the inspection of the pavilions. They "authorize" the places to be checked with the approval of the criminal judge and the provincial prosecutors.

The terrorists, especially Shining Path terrorists, perform several tasks during the day. After breakfast, they exercise in the yard and are trained in the handling of weapons. After lunch, most of them engage in manual works and then attend debates on terrorist ideology and other subversive matters.

The National Police intelligence services have reported that the terrorists plan attacks in Lima from their cells.

Police sources have reported that "the terrorists carry out clandestine activities, thus preventing the police from detecting or arresting them. It is better for them to remain in a prison, considering the manner in which it is managed, and plan their attacks without being harassed by the police."

The main reason for this situation is the mismanagement of prisons, where inmates do as they wish, and several other factors including overcrowding and the very poor infrastructure of the prisons.

Canto Grande has six pavilions, each one divided into two "sub pavilions" that can each house 70 inmates according to the initial plan. A total of 840 inmates can be housed in this prison, but this number has increased to 1,825.

Some 500 MRTA and Shining Path terrorists are being held in Canto Grande, 350 of which are being held at the Pavilion 4-B (which can only house 70).

This incident in which the prison auditorium was seized on the night of 25 July and early the next morning was just another episode led by Shining Path terrorists. That incident was resolved without the use of much violence.

Despite the problems resulting from overcrowding and the lack of infrastructure, another serious situation is the shortage of prison staff.

When the National Police took charge of this prison, there were just 10 guards per shift controlling each pavilion.

Uruguay

President Lacalle Departs for Buenos Aires

PY1508014091 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish
0000 GMT 15 Aug 91

[By Lino Torres from Government House in Montevideo]

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic left for Buenos Aires a few hours ago to participate, along with his Argentine counterpart, Carlos Saul Menem, in a dinner sponsored by Israel's Weizman Institute. The president will return on 15 August and will go to Colonia Department.

Dr. Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera, who is accompanied by his wife, Julia Pou, will stay at the San Juan de Anchorena cattle ranch the entire weekend and will return to his office in the Libertad Building the morning of 19 August. [passage omitted]

U.S. Agents Considered To Fight Drug Trade

PY1508014092 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish
0000 GMT 15 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell has not ruled out the possible participation of U.S. security agents in the repression of drug trafficking and drug abuse in our country.

The nation of the north will contribute funds to create an education, combat, and repression program that will be implemented in Uruguay after the signing of an agreement on this issue by Ambassador Richard Brown and the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Government, CTV Pact Ends Transport Strike

PA1408235891 Caracas Venezolana de Television
Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The transport strike ended this afternoon. Despite the opposition of the Transport Workers Federation, the CTV [Confederation of Venezuelan Workers] and the government signed an agreement granting transporters a number of benefits to compensate for the increase in gasoline prices. Martin Pacheco filed this report:

[Pacheco] The negotiation process, which lasted several hours at the interior affairs minister's office, was not a smooth one. The 10 points proposed by the executive branch at an 11 August meeting at the Miraflores Palace were accepted by the Single Union of Independent Vehicles [Central Unica de Carros Libres y Por Puesto] and the CTV, which represented all the other transport unions.

The executive branch agreed to review a decree granting social security coverage to all transporters, which means

a government disbursement of more than 4 billion bolivares; to exonerate import duties on 2,500 public transport vehicles; reduce the price of spare parts, tires, batteries, and other items needed to maintain the vehicles; maintain the student fare at two bolivares even if transport fares increase; review the cost of vehicle and civil liability insurance policies; refurbishment of the 1,500 vehicles already on list; and study a new fare schedule through an agreement with the respective mayoral offices.

[Begin recording] [CTV Executive Secretary Cesar Gil] The strike just ended because we signed a document by which the national government committed itself to solve the most pressing problems facing taxi and independent transporters, and salaried workers. [end recording]

[Pacheco] The final agreement, however, was surrounded by many incidents. For example, the Transport Workers Federation accused the Single Union of Independent Vehicles of allying itself to the government to break up the strike.

[Begin recording] [Pacheco] How would you describe the attitude of these union leaders?

[Lucas Perez, president of Transport Workers Federation] As a betrayal; a betrayal to class principles; betrayal to the solidarity that they should show colleagues involved in a conflict; and betrayal to the working class that they represent. [end recording]

[Pacheco] The representatives of the independent transporters said that they are not lambs of the federation's president.

[Begin recording] [Simon Ladera, president of Single Union of Independent Vehicles] I believe that Lucas Perez (?started) this strike and he must now find a solution.

[Pacheco] Is he responsible for everything?

[Ladera] Who else? [end recording]

[Pacheco] The respective mayoral offices must now establish new fares in keeping with the needs of each sector. There could be a 40 percent increase, that is, if the current fare were five bolivars, it would be increased to seven.

[Begin recording] [Caracas Mayor Claudio Fermin] We want to adjust fares, but moderate adjustment is needed to prevent profiteering. There must be a specific adjustment for each route. [end recording]

[Pacheco] At any rate, a high-level commission, made up of the ministers of internal affairs and transport and communications, the governor of Caracas, and Caracas Mayor Claudio Fermin, along with the unions, will ensure compliance with the agreement signed today.

This afternoon the CTV issued orders to all its affiliated unions throughout the country to resume work. The

Transport Workers Federation rejected this agreement and will issue a communique in the next few hours.

'Common Criminals' Kidnap Chilean Consul

PA1408153291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1917 GMT
13 Aug 91

[Text] Caracas, 13 Aug (EFE)—Police Commissioner Wilfredo Vina of the Directorate for Intelligence and Prevention Services (DISIP) reported today that Eduardo Vega, Chilean consul in Puerto Ordaz, was kidnapped this morning by common criminals.

The police commissioner explained that the kidnapping took place at about 0230 (0630 GMT), as Vega and his mother drove a friend home after a family party.

Vina said that the consul's car was intercepted by four criminals driving a white station wagon. The diplomat's mother was robbed of all of her belongings and then left abandoned outside of the city.

Vina said that this outrage was carried out by "common criminals" and has no political implications.

The commissioner added that he expects to rescue the consul within a matter of hours and that the consul's car has already been found.

French Guiana

Ariane Rocket Launched From Kourou 14 Aug

PA1508031891 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2329 GMT
14 Aug 91

[Text] Kourou, 14 Aug (DPA)—An Ariane rocket has just been launched from Kourou with the mission of placing an Intelsat-VI-F5 telephone communications satellite in space.

The 4.3-ton satellite will permit the transmission of up to 120,000 transatlantic calls and three television programs.

Completes 45th Mission

PA1508031791 Paris AFP in Spanish 0149 GMT
15 Aug 91

[Text] Evry, France, 15 Aug (AFP)—The European rocket Ariane successfully completed its 45th mission by placing international telecommunications satellite Intelsat-VI-F5 into orbit shortly after it was launched today, 14 August, at 2315 GMT from the Kourou Base (French Guiana).

The Satellitarias international communications organization, with 121 members, commissioned the Intelsat launching. After becoming separated from the Ariane Rocket, it must head toward its geostationary orbit (at an altitude of 36,000 km) over the Equator Line at 14.5 degrees west longitude over the Atlantic Ocean.

Intelsat is designed to simultaneously direct 120,000 telephone calls, television broadcasts, and transmission of data for a 13-year period.

Its coverage area will include North and South America, Europe, and Africa, although its special and dirigible antennae will enable it to direct bundles of precise information toward other regions of the globe.

The Intelsat series is made up of five satellites, manufactured through international cooperation by the U.S. Hughes Aircraft company, which commissioned Ariane to launch the first one in October 1989, to launch the fourth one 14 July, and the fifth and last one next October.

The other two Intelsat-VI satellites were put into orbit by U.S. Titan-3 rockets in March and June of 1990.

The third Intelsat, however, had a mishap when it became separated from its launcher and was never able to enter its definite orbit. It will be recovered by a spacecraft next February.

Today's launching was broadcast live at the Arianespace Society headquarters in Evry, south of Paris.

After the successful mission, Paule Quiles, French minister of public works, transport, housing, equipment, and space, issued a communique hailing "the high technical performance" of the European launcher and forecast "new developments in the months to come," in the relations between Intelsat and the Arianespace Society.